

Companies step up to the plate
Businesses are offering domestic partner benefits in record numbers, report says.
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Games, coloring, and more
LGBT Family Day event a big success for kids and adults.
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Life after exorcism
Actress Linda Blair at the Castro Theatre.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Davis signs DP benefits bill

by Matthew S. Bajko

Governor Gray Davis signed into law the nation's most comprehensive domestic partners bill on Sunday, October 14 when he approved AB25 with his signature. Authored by state Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), the landmark domestic partner benefits bill extends to registered domestic partners in California the same basic legal protections that currently only married couples now enjoy.

"This law gives more rights to domestic partners in California than are available in any state other than Vermont," said Lori Norman, chair of the Lambda Letters Project, which delivered almost 15,000 letters of support for the bill to the governor and legislators. "Congress is now considering a bill to grant domestic partner benefits to federal employees. It is our hope that the twin victories in Vermont and California will provide a powerful boost to that federal legislation."

AB25 allows same-sex couples who register as domestic partners with the secretary of state to seek damages for negligent infliction of emotional distress, administer a partner's estate, use the statutory will form to bequeath property to a domestic partner, and adopt a partner's child using the stepparent adoption process.

"This bill marks a stellar advance for lesbians and gays in California. It recognizes important everyday rights under the law that affect all individuals and their families," said Migden, who authored the state's original domestic partnership law which created a statewide registry in 1999. "This new law sends a message across the nation that California celebrates the dignity and diversity of all people, including same-sex couples."

The bill allows domestic partners to use sick leave to care for a family member, file disability benefits on behalf of an incapacitated partner, provide partners with employer-based health coverage, make medical decisions in the hospital, act as a conservator and sue for wrongful death.

The bill also allows couples to relocate with a domestic partner without losing unemployment benefits



Courtesy GLAAD via Associated Press

Carole Migden

Navy air drops hate

Bomb with anti-gay message bound for Afghanistan



An anti-gay message written in chalk on a U.S. Navy bomb headed for Afghanistan.

by Bob Roehr

The message was ominous. "HIGH JACK [sic] THIS FAGS" was scrawled in chalk on a bomb slung under an aircraft wing. The photo was taken aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise as it cruised in the Arabian Sea, launching planes bound for Afghanistan. The photo was sent out by the Associated Press on October 11 and quickly pulled when voices rose in protest.

The caption that accompanied the photo made no reference to the anti-gay slur; instead it was a generic caption stating that the soldier in the photo was "signing" the bomb.

"The message is insulting and inappropriate," said Sharron E. Greer, legal director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "It is also in clear violation of the United States military's stated policy on harassment and morale."

"The United States Navy would never allow racial epithets or derogatory graffiti based on gender or religion to be scrawled on American property," she said.

Openly gay Arizona state Representative Steve May, who successfully fought expulsion from the Army Reserves under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," said the Navy was "stupid" for having let the photo be sent off the ship through its communications facilities.

SLDN sent a letter to Secretary of the Navy Gordon England on Friday, October 12. Spokesman Steve Ralls said they had not received a response by late Tuesday, October 16. Given other priorities he thought it reasonable to expect a response within a week to 10 days of sending the letter.

"We are waiting to see if someone is going to be held accountable," said Ralls. "The message was an insult to the gay and lesbian victims of the attacks of September 11." It also undercuts morale of gays and lesbians who continue to serve in the military in the closet of DADT.

Simon Langley of the Armed Forces Lesbian and Gay Association in England, told the Rainbow Network, "The U.S. military is fighting a war against extremism and religious intolerance but at the same time they

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SFAF, LA Center put brakes on AIDS Ride

by Katie Szymanski

The gloves came off during the fight for a fair contract between the producers of the California AIDS Ride and its most recent beneficiaries, ending with a bitter divorce, an exciting new event, and threats that could only result from a long relationship gone bad.

Citing financial and ideological differences, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center announced last week that they had severed ties with Pallotta Teamworks, the for-profit producers of various charitable events throughout the country that have long been the target of criticism for their high costs and low returns to AIDS and cancer organizations. Dan Pallotta, the company's founder, launched his first venture, California AIDS Ride, in 1994, with SFAF and the L.A. Center as the main beneficiaries. But increasing community concerns and a recent disagreement about over-budget invoices submitted by Pallotta caused the agencies to re-evaluate their contracts.

"The parties failed to reach agreement on several important issues," said a statement issued by SFAF and the center, "including reasonable financial controls for PTW production expenses, PTW cross promotion and marketing strategies (Pallotta Team Works reportedly used AIDS Ride budget funds to promote its other events), and a reasonable expense budget for the proposed 2002 event given significant unapproved budget overruns by PTW during the 2001 event."

SFAF and the center now plan to host their



AIDS Ride participants leave SF on June 3.

own bicycle ride to raise money for their organizations, a move that they say will reduce overhead costs in the long run, allowing more of the money raised by riders to actually go toward HIV/AIDS services. Appropriately entitled, "AIDS/LifeCycle," the ride does not yet have a route or exact dates, but the response to the decision, according to SFAF spokesman Gustavo Suárez, has been "overwhelming."

"We have received hundreds of calls and emails since the announcement, applauding the creation of the new event and underlining how alienated a lot of long-term riders had felt from the previous [Pallotta's California AIDS Ride] event," said Suárez. "Judging from the feedback, this is going to be a big success."

Suárez stayed positive when describing LifeCycle, acknowledging that the event's first year may incur start-up costs, with future years bringing in a larger percentage of funds for direct services.

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Health Recovery Class, open to all in the community, but geared towards folks living with HIV/AIDS (co-sponsored by Shanti Activities (415-674-4721). Helps many with other chronic, progressive diseases such as MS, MD, Parkinson's, stroke, cardiac troubles, arthritis, etc. The Health Recovery Class is free to all. Donations gladly accepted.

Mondays and Thursdays 1:30-3:30PM Starting October 22nd at Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood

Queer history bike tour Sun.

by Joe Dignan

It's about 12 miles and 50 years from the Black Cat in North Beach, through most of San Francisco's queer history, out to the Wild Side West in Bernal Heights.

But this weekend, bicyclists can see most of that history when the LGBT Historical Society of Northern California and the San Francisco Bike Coalition present "The Queer History Bike Tour." The free event begins at Justin Herman Plaza (Market and the Embarcadero) at 11 a.m. on Sunday, October 21, and goes approximately 12 miles over not-too-hilly terrain to the Wild Side West at 424 Cortland Avenue in Bernal Heights.

According to tour leader and historian Paul Gabriel of the GLBT Historical Society, "The Wild Side West is one of the unrecognized queer spots in San Francisco."

The Black Cat was one of the earliest public gathering places for gays here, and before the police eventually managed to close it in 1963, it was the subject of an historic Supreme Court decision in 1951, *Stouman v. Reilly*, which affirmed the rights of gay people to congregate in bars.



Four men posing on Steuart Street with YMCA in background in 1958. The Wharf and Embarcadero area was one of the first neighborhoods frequented by queer people.

Courtesy GLBT Historical Society of Northern California

According to Larry Littlejohn, longtime gay activist and president of the Society for Individual Rights, "Bars were to the gay civil rights movement what churches were to African American civil rights."

As a result, several of the tour's stopping places will be bars.

Along the way the tour will cruise Ringold Alley, site of the original "Up Your Alley" fair which would, after two years, move down the block to Dore;

hang out at the original Stud; check out the pre-Castro hangouts in the Haight; and roll through the Valencia corridor where what is now the Elbo Room was a place called Amelia's where lesbians could congregate.

"We're not climbing Twin Peaks, we're going to the bar," said Gabriel. "It was the first with windows out front. Now people call it the 'glass coffin' or 'God's waiting page 13 ▶

Shanti brings New Orleans to SF tonight

by Matthew S. Bajko

For its 27th annual awards ceremony tonight (Thursday, October 18), Shanti is hosting "A Night in New Orleans." The nonprofit will transform the Merchants Exchange's Julia Morgan Ballroom into a scene from Bourbon Street.

The evening will feature jazz and R&B recording artist Tim Hockenberry. The organization will present "Inspirational Service" awards to Debra Gonzalez, Ricardo Montero, Angel Arellano, Jim Koppel, and Marlon Woodward.

Also to be presented are "Investing in the Community" awards to Alvin Baum Jr., LCSV; Adobe Systems; the Michael Levin Family; and Andrea Martin, founder of the Breast Cancer Fund.

The San Francisco agency works to enhance the quality of life for persons living with life-threatening illnesses by providing emotional support and practical assistance volunteers. Shanti also runs a national training institute for effective volunteer management, a L.I.P.E. program, psycho-educational counseling program that marries prevention and treatment interventions to pro-

mote the long-term health to people living with HIV/AIDS and cancer, and Lifelines, a collaborative effort with the Breast Cancer Fund and Project Open Hand to provide services to an estimated 200 low-income and uninsured women ill with breast cancer.

Tickets for tonight's benefit cost \$200 per person. The event includes a gourmet buffet, wine tasting, cocktails, and auction. To purchase tickets call (415) 674-4764.

The event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. tonight at the Merchant Exchange, 465 California Street. For more information about the event, visit www.powerofcaring.com. ▶

Restaurant holds benefit to help dream vacations come true

by Matthew S. Bajko

Travel often offers new perspectives on life, and at times, it can soothe the soul. Especially for people living with life-threatening illnesses, such as HIV/AIDS and breast cancer, vacations can help ease their pain and take their mind off their suffering.

However, medical bills can hamper these people's ability to afford jetting off to other countries, or even weekend trips to closer getaways. To help them, JohnFrank Restaurant is hosting a cocktail party this Monday, October 22 with proceeds benefiting Destination Foundation.

Destination Foundation is based in San Francisco and grants dream trips to people in the San Francisco Bay Area living with life-threatening illnesses. The foundation supports these trips as remedies for the very personal issues of isolation, loss of income, loss of an active lifestyle, and the depression that is often associated dealing with life-threatening illnesses.

Tim Hepworth, executive director, founded Destination Foundation in 1998 in memory of

his partner, James Poole, who died from AIDS in 1997.

"As an American Airlines flight attendant, Jim's travels to 72 countries helped him live with AIDS for 13 years," said Hepworth. "We traveled the world. I saw that even though my partner was sometimes suffering ill health, the rewards of travel and fulfilling dreams had a very positive impact on Jim's life and well being."

Hepworth wanted to make this positive experience available to others living with life-threatening illnesses. For the last three years Destination Foundation has granted dream trips to four world continents: North America, South America, Europe, and Africa.

"Our trips do not have to be a last dying wish," Hepworth said. "They can simply be alternative medicine to heal the body and spirit – a welcome respite after a rough round of chemotherapy or a long hospital stay – enabling our recipients and their partners to focus on something personally meaningful rather than on the everyday routine of an illness."

Since 1999, the foundation has been receiving recipient recommendations from Dr. Jacob Lalezari, director of Quest Clinical Research, and Barbara Bren-

ner, executive director of Breast Cancer Action. The foundation now accepts requests from the community through its Web site – www.destinationfoundation.org – and other local agencies including WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases), Shanti, and the Charlotte Maxwell Complementary Clinic. All applicants must meet the foundation's granting criteria, which include income and illness verification, trip approval from their physicians, and a meeting with the board of directors.

The foundation has granted more dream trips in 2001 than in 1999 and 2000 combined partly because of the foundation's new domestic and weekend getaway outreach program. This program serves clients from other local San Francisco Bay Area agencies, according to Hepworth.

The benefit at JohnFrank will take place from 7 to 10 p.m. Monday, October 22. Cocktails will be provided by Smirnoff and wine provided by BV Wines. The restaurant is located at 2100 Market Street.

A \$25 donation is suggested. To RSVP and purchase tickets in advance, call the foundation at (415) 970-3333. ▶

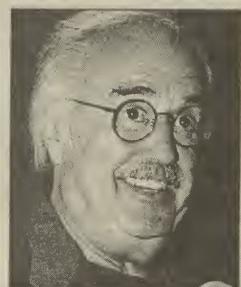
State Senate lines slice through heart of Castro

by Matthew S. Bajko

Calling it a classic example of gerrymandering, the city's disparate LGBT political groups are banding together for the first time in two decades to fight what they see as the political dissection of the Castro. Their rallying cry - the redrawn maps for state Senate Districts 3 and 8, with one boundary line running down the middle of Castro Street from 17th to 23rd streets.

"It appears that the new line is not only a slap in the face to the gay community, but by dividing the Castro down the middle, it also changes the distribution of the gay population," said Theresa Sparks, a member of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club.

Before the redistricting of the Castro, nearly 80 percent of the city's gay district was represented by state Senator John Burton (D-San Francisco), and the district's previous boundary lied in the Diamond Heights neighborhood. Now, 60 percent remains in Burton's district and roughly 40 percent, the parts of the community



State Senator John Burton

west of Castro Street, will fall into District 8, currently held by state Senator Jackie Speier (D-Hillsborough).

Burton told the *Bay Area Reporter* he was not aware the new line runs down the middle of Castro Street until he was contacted by reporters and the community. He said he paid more attention to the redrawing of the congressional districts during the redistricting debates.

The most contentious issues were about the new congressional

districts not the Senate districts. I didn't see the new line until someone raised the issue after the bill had been signed," said Burton.

That is hard to believe, say LGBT political leaders.

"Oh come on. John Burton is the brother of Phil Burton, the greatest gerrymanderer of the last century," said Chris Bowman, the Log Cabin Republican's secretary. "This is a classic gerrymander."

Unbeknownst to them until after Governor Gray Davis signed legislation depicting the new maps, the queer political activists are now pursuing legal action and political avenues to repair what they see as the slicing of the Castro's heart in two.

"It is a significant decrease and a dilution of our political power," said Jerry Threet, Milk Club president.

The coalition of groups includes the Milk Club, Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, the Log Cabin Republicans of San Francisco, the Transgender Political Caucus, and Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom. The last time many of these groups

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Rough diamond

Gay softball team suffers on-field taunts

by Jim Provenzano

A San Francisco gay softball team has come one step closer to winning the City League championships, but not without being the recipients of homophobic remarks from a cheating opposing team.

The SF Aftershock was playing the Cable Cars, a straight team, at Lang Field at Turk and Gough streets on Sunday, October 14. During the contentious game in which non-regulation bats were used, the opposing team was reported as taunting members of the Aftershock, even after being reprimanded for cheating.

According to Marc Triplett, Aftershock manager, and a co-chair of the San Francisco Gay Softball League, in the sixth inning, their opponents were seen using double-wall bats, which are not allowed in this league. The aluminum bats make for stronger hits.

"The ball comes off faster and harder," said Triplett. "We caught one guy using the illegal bat," after

he had made a far-reaching home run.

The umpire was told of this infraction after the home run. After the run was dismissed, the Cable Cars began what Triplett calls some "light verbal abuse," calling the Aftershock, "bitches and ho's."

The mostly gay team ignored the taunts, but when it grew to anti-gay slurs, they became upset. "We're running a class act here," said Triplett. "Nobody said anything about it in return." The Aftershock went on to defeat the unruly cheaters 12-11.

Triplett figures the taunts were partially resentful. "They don't want to get beat by the gay guys," he said. "After the game, some of the guys didn't even shake hands with us afterward."

Robert Owens, Cable Car team manager for the past two years, offered a different perspective.

"Both sides, I'd say, were name-calling," he said in a telephone interview.

Following the disqualification of the player, "Some words were exchanged. Then it kind of snowballed."

While he did admit that "one of or two of our players were showing bad sportsmanship regarding the illegal bat," he also accused some Aftershock fans of engaging in profanity-laden discourse with a Cable Car team member's wife.

Owens, who was coaching third base at the time, said he didn't know what was said between players. "I knew it was some verbal exchange."

When asked who he believes initiated the unsportsmanlike conduct, Owens said, "I don't know about starting it."

He said, however, that it was only after the allegedly cheating player hit a third home run that the illegal bat was pointed out.

"The score was 8-1 in their [Aftershock's] favor. My player made three home runs, then they called an illegal bat."

Although admitting that the umpire "did disqualify the home run and the player was out," he criticized the events as unfortunate.

"I believe the umpire didn't have control of the game." ▶

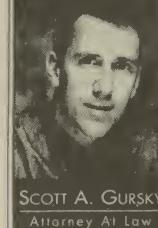
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Potty training

by Jane Warner

The Edge bar, 4149 18th Street, October 7, 4:45 p.m.: Police were called to the Edge on report of a battery and found a man held in custody by the bartenders, and another man who had a swollen eye. According to the man with a shiner, the suspect assaulted him after becoming angry over his place in the bathroom line. The man stated he was waiting for the restroom, when suddenly the suspect pushed ahead of him, saying, "You're not going before me." An argument ensued and the suspect punched the victim in the eye. The victim wrestled his assailant to the ground, sitting on him until bartenders pulled him off and called police. The 38-year-old line-cutter was taken to Mission Station where he was charged with battery. An additional charge of re-

sisting arrest was added after he allegedly kicked the door of his jail cell repeatedly and wrestled with officers who tried to subdue him.

Double crossed

Castro and Market, October 12, 11:30 p.m.: Two men were walking with the light in the crosswalk at Castro and Market when suddenly their path was blocked by a white Honda whose drivers misjudged the crosswalk. Angry, the men kicked the door of the car and yelled at the driver to watch where he was going. The driver and two passengers exited the vehicle and all five started pushing each other. Two other men jumped out of the car and urged the others to get back inside. The three complied, but as they drove away, one of the disgruntled walkers jumped on the hood and ripped the wipers off the windshield. The car stopped and the man jumped off. Several more obscenities were exchanged. As the

vehicle continued westbound on Market, a bottle was thrown out the window, shattering on impact. The white Honda, with an unknown license plate, was last seen westbound on Market. Responding police were unable to find it. Both walkers were uninjured, but police admonished them for their role in the incident.

Stoned

Outside Starbucks, 4096 18th Street, October 10, 11:45 p.m.: While inside the coffee shop, several people witnessed a man lingering outside acting strangely. After about 30 minutes, the man suddenly grabbed a rock and for no apparent reason smashed the windshield of a car parked nearby. Stunned onlookers surrounded the man as several people dialed 911. The man complied with the group, dropped the rock, and calmly waited until police arrived. When asked why he had smashed the windshield the man nonchalantly told officers, "It's just a game I play." The 44-year-old man was taken to Mission Station and booked for vandalism. ▼

Judge moves dog mauling trial to LA

by Ed Walsh

Despite objections from prosecutors, the trial of the husband-wife keepers of the two dogs involved in the fatal mauling of Diane Whipple will be moved to Los Angeles.

A judge ordered the move during a change of venue hearing last Friday, October 12, which was marked by an unusual entrance by defendant Marjorie Knoller, who faces a charge of second-degree murder.

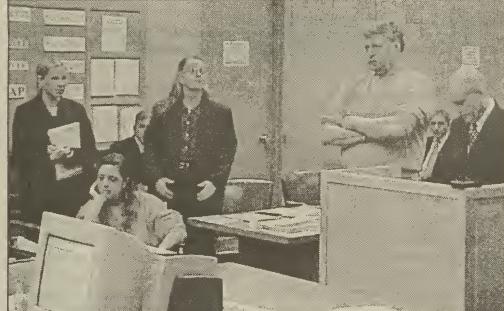
Knoller guardedly limped into the courtroom and appeared to cringe in pain with each step. She winced as she slowly eased into her seat. During part of the hearing, she rested her head on the defense table. No mention was made of her health. Her attorney, Nedra Ruiz, left court without talking to reporters and didn't return the Bay Area Reporter's call seeking comment. Officials at the San Francisco County jail, where she and her husband, Robert Noel, are being held, has a policy of not releasing medical information about those in custody.

Knoller was with the dogs during the January 26 hallway attack on Whipple, her next door neighbor. Noel is being charged with involuntary manslaughter. Both also face charges of keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren said he narrowed down the choices of counties under consideration to three, all in Southern California: Riverside, San Diego, and Los Angeles.

Assistant District Attorney Jim Hammer said he favored San Diego. He cited a poll conducted by the defense that showed that 45-percent of potential jurors there had no opinion about the couple's guilt or innocence. No poll was conducted of potential Los Angeles jurors.

Hammer brought up the re-



Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel in court with their lawyers.

cent rash of publicity in Los Angeles over a woman who placed a classified ad in the *Los Angeles Times* offering for sale the grand-puppies of Bane, the male dog who instigated the attack on Whipple. Hammer also said that L.A. is the tabloid media center of the country and would be more prone to sensationalistic coverage.

Ruiz argued that Los Angeles would be a better location, in part because of the greater number of flights from the Bay Area. Ruiz also reminded Warren that Whipple once lived in San Diego. In a surprising twist, Ruiz spoke in support of the efforts of Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, to change the law to give her the right to sue for wrongful death.

Just two days after the hearing, Governor Gray Davis signed AB25 into law. Among other provisions, it gives gay couples comparable rights in civil cases. Smith testified for its passage in Sacramento at the invitation of the bill's author, Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco).

"Ms. Whipple didn't die in vain," said Ruiz. "Her death accomplished a legally unheard-of precedence-shattering event, that her partner could sue and obtain justice," she said referring to a civil court judge's decision to allow

Smith to proceed with her wrongful death suit against Noel and Knoller despite state law that at the time only gave that right to married couples. "These events have transformed Ms. Whipple into a true heroine" said Ruiz. "A heroine of gay rights."

"On a personal note I believe that Ms. Smith had every right to sue and she's vindicated the rights of same-sex couples all over America."

That comment didn't sit well with Hammer, who blasted Ruiz when he was given an opportunity for counter arguments.

"I'm glad that Ms. Ruiz recognizes the sanctity of the relationship between Ms. Whipple and Sharon Smith," said the openly gay prosecutor. "Her clients called it a sham and that in part has generated such nasty publicity in the last couple of weeks."

Noel's attorney, Bruce Hotchkiss, reiterated some of Ruiz's arguments about why Los Angeles is the best place for the trial. He told Warren that Los Angeles County's larger population meant a bigger jury pool and an increased chance of finding an impartial jury. He also suggested that the case could "take over" the small San Diego County city of

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Halloween sex show to benefit 'cranky old coot'

by Katie Szymanski

If there is one place to be this week as a queer, sex-positive, or gender bending member of the community, it is the "Pagan New Year Masquerade: a Halloween Warm-Up Sex Fest," at Club 220 at the Campus Theatre on Friday, October 19.

The event features Annie Sprinkle's "Topless Tarot" readings; sex doctor and Pride Parade grand marshal Carol Queen; the lesbian porn duo Jackie Strano and Shar Rednour; the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence; writer Kirk Read; DJ Mermaid; Heather and Jeb; mi blue; Katy Bell; Thea Hillman; and The Hidden Heaven. Go-go dancers, a raffle, and a costume contest complete the scene.

The event is a benefit for Willie Walker, co-founder of the GLBT Historical Society who recently retired due to health complications from hepatitis C.

Walker awaits a liver transplant through the University of California, San Francisco, his only true hope for long-term survival. Because there is always a shortage of organs, livers in particular have increasingly been recruited from "living donors," whereby surgery takes just a section of the donor's organ, and the remaining tissue regenerates to regular size within weeks. However, no living donor with type-O blood has stepped forward, and in the meantime, Walker must struggle to make ends meet.

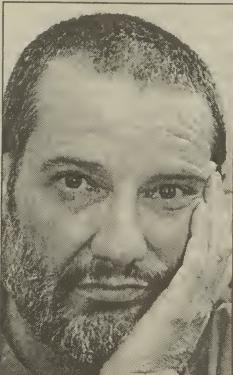
Walker, still an avid historian who happily lends his services and collections to all those interested, describes himself as "a cranky old coot whose heroes are Emma Goldman, Pee Wee Herman, and Gromit the dog."

"He's one of a handful of people," his bio continues, "who actually chose to become downwardly mobile in the 1990s by obtaining his master of library and information science degree, ending his long career as a registered nurse and becoming a professional archivist. He has worked extensively with historical records and papers dealing with local history, the labor movement, queer communities, the AIDS epidemic, and homoeroticism. In 1985 Walker co-founded the LGBT Historical Society of Northern California, where he twice served as archivist. When possible, he continues

work on a manuscript about the major photographers of the physical culture and physique movements."

Those who have ever enjoyed an exhibit of Bay Area queer culture – from porn to fetish to activism – most likely have Walker to thank for his efforts in documenting and preserving LGBT history.

Friday's event carries a \$20-\$30 sliding scale entrance fee, which will directly benefit Walker's efforts to live and thrive while he awaits a potential transplant. Doors open at 8:30 p.m., and the show runs from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The venue is located at 220 Jones Street, two blocks north of Market. Dress outrageously or come as you are. ▼



Willie Walker

Rick Gerhardt

Historical Society reception honors Bay Area leaders

by Katie Szymanski

Local heroes and exemplary organizations will be recognized by the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California at the 12th annual Community History Awards ceremony next Thursday, October 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Honorees include Judy Grahn as "Woman of the Year," a lesbian feminist poet, cultural critic, activist, historian, teacher, publisher, and anthropologist. Born in 1940, Grahn left home at the age of 17, joined the Navy, and was discharged in 1961 for being a lesbian. In 1963, she picketed the White House with homophile activists. In her 20s, she re-committed herself to her love of writing, and her works have included the popular reference *Another Mother Tongue: Gay Words, Gay Worlds*, and the poetic volumes *Queen of Swords* and *Queen of Wands*. On the power of language, Grahn once said that "We can change a society, era, or even a world by altering its rhythms, stories, and imagery."

The "Man of the Year" award will go to Andrew Brother Elk, a founding member of the Harvey Milk Institute and an active scholar and activist. Brother Elk "helped turned an idea into an organization," according to HMI.

colleagues; was a leader in securing funding for land conservation and biodiversity in Central America and Asia; and works on a broad range of civil rights issues for both Native Americans and queer people. In 2001 he co-founded "Weaving Our Roots: Native Arts in the Parks."

The "Organization of the Year" award will go to Friends of 1800 Market, the group that led the effort to preserve the historic Fallon Building during construction of the new LGBT Community Center. And the historical society's "Founder's Award" will go to Berkeley's Pacific Center for Human Growth, the third oldest LGBT center in the country.

Awards will be presented along with drinks and hors d'oeuvres during a reception that will allow guests, honorees, and historical society staff and board members to meet and mingle. The event takes place at Blue Sky Studios at 2325 Third Street (at 20th). Tickets start at \$50 and can be purchased at www.glbthistory.org/communityawards. There is ample street parking and the event is also accessible by the 15 or 22 Muni bus lines. Proceeds from the event will go toward ensuring the historical society's continued work in recording and preserving LGBT work, culture, and institutions. ▼

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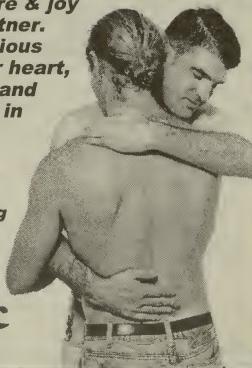
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In the Navy

There are two disturbing censorship issues that have come to light recently that are of great concern to us. Most directly related to the LGBT community was the photo taken last week aboard the USS Enterprise that showed a bomb loaded on an airplane with the anti-gay slogan "HIGH JACK [sic] THIS FAGS" scrawled in chalk. The message is problematic because it is in direct violation of the military's failed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that is supposed to address harassment of gays in the military. Whoever wrote that message obviously harbors serious anti-gay sentiment and the Navy has an obligation to account for the incident. It's safe to say that the Navy would never permit service personnel to write a racial epithet on a bomb and would be publicly chastised if the n-word appeared in chalk on U.S. government property.

The photo, taken by an Associated Press photographer, did not include a caption that addressed the anti-gay message so clearly visible in the picture; rather, a generic description was used, in effect, avoiding the issue of why the military was sanctioning homophobic slurs on government property. AP quickly removed the photo from distribution after discussions with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. The problem with that action, as we see it, is that GLAAD was not asking the company to remove – and in effect censor – the photo; on the contrary, GLAAD wanted the wire service to run the photo with a story examining the anti-gay angle or at least accurately identify the message in the accompanying caption. In removing the picture, AP took the easy way out and the general public was denied its right to know why the Navy let someone get away with writing such a message.

There is also the recent decision by the major television networks to edit and possibly withhold any tapes released by suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden and others in his al Qaeda network. The Bush administration is concerned that hidden, coded messages in the tapes may be broadcast to terror cells. While this claim is unfounded, the networks decided to self-censor themselves and, in doing, capitulated to National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice's alleged fears.

That decision was wrong. We want to hear what bin Laden has to say. We suspect the American public is smart enough to read between the lines and pick out likely propaganda spewed by bin Laden. Since bin Laden's tapes have been released to the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera network, those in

the Arabic-speaking world are hearing what he has to say, and we should too: we need to hear his messages; we need to know what is driving our enemies. We see pictures everyday of people in other countries protesting against the United States and part of the reason for their protests is that bin Laden has struck a chord with them about various issues, including the conflict in the Middle East and their anger at the United States.

The networks need to reevaluate their initial response and air any future tapes in their entirety.

On the anthrax front, we applaud the initiative of Senator Charles Schumer (D-New York), who this week called on the administration to invoke a little known statute that would enable the U.S. to obtain generic versions of Cipro, the antibiotic approved in the treatment of anthrax. Schumer is worried that the country doesn't have adequate stocks of the drug and relies on a single drug company to supply it; he emphasized that the generic version of the drug would be significantly cheaper than the Cipro produced by German drugmaker Bayer AG.

Within hours of Schumer's proposal to relax Bayer's patent on Cipro, the company

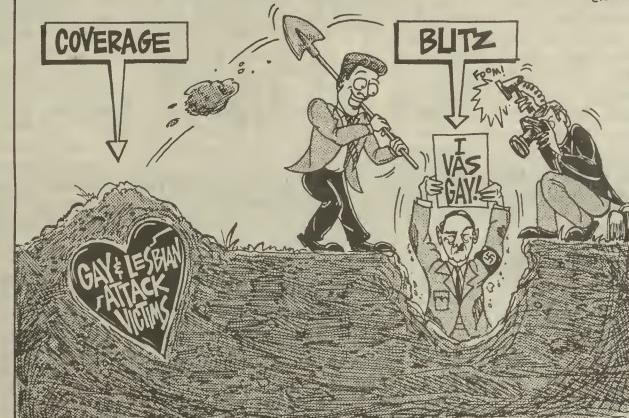
announced that it was tripling its Cipro production. As Schumer said Tuesday night, his plan got the company's immediate attention.

Taking Schumer's proposal further, however, we can see great advantages for opening the door wider to generic versions of AIDS drugs for which developing countries have been begging. For months, drug companies with patents on AIDS medications have been reluctant to loosen those patents which would allow generic versions of their drugs to be made. Some countries, like Brazil, have gotten around the issue and are producing generic AIDS drugs; other countries, notably those in Africa, are in desperate need of the cheaper pills for the millions of people infected with HIV.

Since September 11, we have seen the government respond to an array of problems at a pace much quicker than normal; now, with the threat of bioterrorism lurking across the country as more anthrax cases are discovered daily, it would behoove Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson to follow up on Schumer's suggestion. Not only would it save money and make more of the anthrax-fighting drug available but could lead to a new era in getting AIDS medications to millions around the world. ▼

Editorial

MEDIA TERMS DEFINED...

RON WILLIAMS
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Now, more than ever, America needs our stories

by Jim Marks

This weekend, October 19-21, gay and lesbian writers from around the country will gather in San Francisco for the fourth annual Lambda Literary Festival. There will be lectures and workshops, panels and readings. Rising authors will be recognized, pioneering authors honored. There will be more than a few parties and, if the past is any guide, no lack of flirting and cruising.

Why, you might ask, would writers get together at a time like this? Isn't there something more important they can do?

The answer is that, no, there is nothing more important for them to do. Art is how we make sense of the chaos and emotion of life. Literature more than any other art form makes that experience understandable. Our stories give events both horrible and wonderful a beginning, a middle, an end.

Now, more than ever, America needs our stories. For 20 years, a full generation, our writers have been grappling with an unseen enemy. This enemy can plant the seeds of our destruction unnoticed in a moment of joy. This enemy has taken its casualties almost at random. And, yes, the merchants of hate have told us, this is our own fault. For 20 years, AIDS has permeated our lives and

our dreams and our writers have struggled to make sense of it.

Poet Essex Hemphill told us what it is like to have fear invade our most tender, intimate moments. Novelist David Feinberg captured the passion of a life that knew it would be too soon cut short. Novelist Sarah Schulman took us into the gritty streets of the East Village when it was another kind of ground zero. Novelist, playwright, and activist Larry Kramer took all our rage and anger at an unseeing world and hurled it back with redoubled force. Playwright Craig Lucas showed us the tenderness and struggles of long time companions. Poet Mark Doty placed us at a lover's bedside and kept us there through the vomit and the beauty of life's last moments.

These are just some of the writers who have achieved some public recognition. How many more did not? For the past two years, it has been my privilege to publish some of the writers who were cut off just as they were finding their talents. Since becoming editor of the Lambda Literary Foundation's quarterly magazine, the *James White Review*, Patrick Merla has dedicated himself to making sure that the lost voices

of the AIDS epidemic are heard once again. Walta Borowski, Tim Drago, Rick Sandford, Joe Brainerd: wonderful writers, even if few recognize their names. And as I read them, often for the first time, a common thread emerges. Despite the inferno of disease racing through their lives, their words contain a huge zest for living.

This is why our writers gather, must gather, in the coming days. Too many voices have been lost to AIDS. There is a rising generation knocking at the door, with new stories to tell. Their voices must not be lost to neglect, to inattention, to the mistaken belief that our lives are trivial, our words unimportant.

And that is why America needs us now. We have descended into the death and destruction of a terrible epidemic and we have emerged to say, do not give way to fear and despair: the spirit survives. ▼

Guest Opinion

Jim Marks is director of publications for the Lambda Literary Foundation, which publishes the *Lambda Book Report* and the *James White Review*. For information about the Lambda Literary Festival, go to www.lambdalit.org.

LETTERS

Fund for LGBT victims or terror

Thanks to Matthew S. Bajko and David Batterson for their reporting ways that gay people and those who love them can make financial contributions to organizations offering aid to LGBT victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks ("Fund set up for LGBT victims of attacks," October 4), a sensible alternative to organizations that operate with thoughtless, hurtful, oppressive policies of prejudice.

After the attacks I was shocked to discover that those who control the nation's blood supply continue to want nothing to do with blood offered by any gay man (regardless of his HIV status) unless he is willing to promise that he has not had sex with another man since 1977. Because I am considered ineligible as a blood donor, I consider the American Red Cross ineligible for financial donations until they responsibly review and reverse this irrational and insulting policy.

It would be helpful if you would repeat the contact address for the LGBT Disaster Relief Fund of the Stonewall Community Foundation so that anyone who missed the article can send contributions to organizations that help those people from our community who might otherwise be overlooked, rather than supporting a national organization that cooperates with damaging, irrational discrimination.

Don Clark
San Francisco

[Editor's note: The contact information is: Stonewall Community Foundation, 119 W. 24th Street, New York, NY 10011. For more information, e-mail Robinj@stonewallfoundation.org or call (212) 367-1155. Checks should be made out to the foundation.]

What a fair

It was very impressive that the entertainment lineup for the recent Castro Street Fair read like a Who's Who of local gay musical talent. I hope that whoever did this year's casting will continue to do it for years to come. As most people know, there is never much skill deployed on the musical stages of the local street fairs, certainly due to the lack of ability to pay large sums to the performers.

Blackberry has been a leader in the local folk scene for over 20 years, and his rich voice is a pleasure to the ears. Garren Benfield is a rising star in the gay rock community, and he has been trying to succeed in New York (I believe). It was great to have him back here. Doug Stevens has the best country voice in the gay scene, and his good looks are something most of us appreciate, too.

Last, but not least, Pansy Division, which must be the number one gay rock band in the world, performed. They remain as fun as ever, and their musical growth has also continued, especially because of the new lead guitarist.

In fact, the only local gay musical talent (at least of a rock 'n roll nature) that was missing was the Sister Hazel-type band, ing. Hopefully, they will grace the stage at a future fair.

There have been stars on the musical stage of the Castro Street Fair in the past: Sylvester, Jimmy Sommerville, etc., but there has never been a series of talented performers like there was this year. It was nice to see the drastic change from the aimless and unskilled noisemakers that have been more typical of previous fairs.

Let's hope that next year's fair will repeat the musical lineup.

Tony Jasinski
San Francisco

Castro divided

On September 26 the governor signed new state Senate, Assembly, Board of Equalization, and U.S. congressional districts into law. Two days later, the attorney general submitted the new boundaries for the state Senate and congressional districts to the United States Attorney General for review. The new district lines for the 3rd and 8th Senate districts split the LGBT communities in half. More specifically, the line runs down the middle of Castro Street from 23rd Street to 17th Street, with the west side in District 8 and the east side in District 3.

It is astonishing to me that no one in the LGBT political establishment seems to be concerned about this obvious act to diminish the electoral significance of our community. Instead, our leaders, organizations and activists argue about what Carole Migden did to Mark Leno, or whether Harry Britt endorsed one person or another or whether Tom Ammiano can really become mayor without the more moderate faction of the LGBT community. While we spend our time and energies bickering among ourselves, a house divided, our political future is being gerrymandered into oblivion.

I call upon all of our leaders to immediately contact state Attorney General Bill Lockyer and protest these new district boundaries as an obvious attempt to "deny or abridge our right to vote on account of membership in a minority group." I also believe we should gather our political will, set our differences aside, pool our collective talents, and coalesce behind a single can-

didate for Assembly and treasurer and, over the next few years, single candidates for state Senate and mayor. We have extraordinary candidates for each of these offices in Mark Leno, Susan Leal, Carole Migden, and Tom Ammiano. It's our choice. We can either follow in the steps of Harvey Milk and fight for our rightful voice, or we can continue to bitch-slap one another and one day find ourselves without the electoral base to sustain the voice we already have.

Theresa Sparks
San Francisco

Shield pets from loud noise

As a person who lives in the Castro might I make an observation: We all love the street fairs, wonderful sights, sounds, people watching, and shopping galore.

I found myself totally entranced with the music from the Latino stage during the recent Castro Street Fair. One really had to stand back though several feet from the speakers or to the side to not encounter some kind of hearing damage.

When I looked down and to my right, though, what did I see? Some moron with a little dog standing right in front of the speaker blasting the poor dog's ears so badly I was almost moved to tears. Throughout the day I saw this sickening sight repeated over and over again at least a dozen times at all the bands.

I finally said something to one of the dog owners, and was just kind of dismissed with a "mind your own business."

Come on people. Those of you with pets should look at things through their eyes. All of these pets were clearly agitated and trying to get away from the blasts. Do you not know that a pet has incredibly better hearing than a human has and what absolute horror the animal is feeling with this jet blast hitting their ears and there is nothing they can do about it?

I love dogs and cats and all animals. But this was nothing short of leaving the poor creatures locked up in a car on a hot day with no ventilation or water. Please use common sense when taking your pets to these types of things.

Thomas R. Redding
San Francisco

Title merely reflects reality

Last week the B.A.R. ran a story concerning the hiring of an interim executive director at the AIDS Emergency Fund ("AEF hires interim executive director," October 11), which, in the past, has been a very controversial topic within the organization and the AIDS community.

AEF has always represented the original "compassionate response" to the AIDS epidemic and the power of volunteerism. It has always been a point of pride that the organization thrives without the "benefit" of AIDS professionals. While volunteers, including the hardest working board of directors in existence, are what make the AIDS Emergency Fund and Breast Cancer Emergency Fund outstanding organizations, one staff member at AEF has been the "glue" holding the organization together through good times and bad since 1994. Peter Atanasio never cared what title his job carried. In fact, in 1996, the board asked him to assume the E.D. position officially. He declined, not because he was afraid of the reaction in the community, but rather because he simply believed in the original mission of the organization and its roots in volunteerism.

Frankly, we should have insisted that he take on the E.D. role/title because it reflected the reality of the work he did, without complaint or proper remuneration, for years. The decision, in 2001, to hire an executive director in response to Peter's leaving the organization, is simply an acknowledgment of what his position represented. The current board should be applauded for its directness in addressing the issue of his replacement.

More importantly, all of us in the HIV community owe Peter Atanasio a very big thank you.

Leslie Ewing
Past President, Board of Directors
AIDS Emergency Fund

Liberal supports administration

First let me present my liberal credentials: I am no Bush lover, (pun intended). I felt the partisan Supreme Court gave him the election. I believe in hate-free zones, have a number of Muslim friends, feel the Netanyahu and Sharon governments' heavy-handed occupation of Palestine and gunning down of rock-throwing 14-year-olds is reprehensible. I disagreed with our government's approach to Iraq during the Gulf war and disagreed supporting Kuwait's arrogant and excessive pumping of the Rumallah oil field which it shares with Iraq. I fully respect Barbara Lee's articulate logic for not supporting the war declaration. I am very wary of flag-waving blind patriotism.

I've spent many years traveling and working in the Middle East and Muslim countries, worked exten-

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sively in the Soviet-occupied 'stans (and fell in love with Kyrgyzstan in particular), and had a beautiful Egyptian boyfriend, Sami, who I accompanied to his mosque on several occasions. (He wanted me to convert). I had worked for the U.S. Foreign Service and am particularly proud of my part in helping to normalize relationships between the U.S. and the countries of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos in the mid-1980s.

This said, I am not conflicted about our military engagement in Afghanistan. As much as I expected Bush to stumble (our boy president grew up quickly the week of September 11), he has not. I believe between Tony Blair's guidance (Blair being the Clinton of England and refusal to let GB II start WW III), and Colin Powell's refusal to get us into another Vietnam (as a Vietnam vet, he understands we must have a specific objective and is committed to minimizing civilian and U.S. military casualties. And with his position on affirmative action, Powell is no darling of the radical right), the Bush administration has impressed me by its restraint, rhetoric, clarity and objectives.

We must keep in mind that we are dealing with a group of psychopathic religious zealots who make our radical right look like bedfellows. These fanatics would rejoice in the execution of each and every gay and lesbian person in America. It is our openness, and inclusiveness, our belief in gay rights, women's rights, our secularity that is their enemy. Even those in the world forum who tolerate our policies have thrown their support behind routing out these terrorists. And we have the support of unlikely countries who recognize the importance of hunting down these criminals – Sudan and Syria being the most surprising. As for the Taliban, they are a nightmare for those who live under their regime. Homosexuals, adulterers, and others are publicly executed. They are extremists who have no sense of individual or human rights.

We must hold the Bush administration's feet to the fire that when its objective of routing out and capturing or destroying the terrorist cells is met that we gracefully withdraw. We must also make sure that the war does not escalate unnecessarily. We must be much more sincere in our gestures of food and assistance to the Afghans. We must hold the Bush administration to its promise of implementing the recommendations of the George Mitchell report for resolving the Palestinian statehood issue. At the same time, as much as I cringe at his inability to articulate (this is a new war, a different war), I fully agree with his actions to date. They are right and just and deserve our support.

I think it's terribly naive by those who call the current involvement racist or fall into the comfortable anti-war camp, or protest this action because it is by a Republican administration. I abhor war. But this threat is real. They have already killed thousands and would rejoice at your death too – death to the homosexual infidel. They must be stopped and I strongly support the current action.

Tom Stanley
Oakland, California

Where's the security?

You would think that with all the heightened security around the world and the concern of additional terrorist attacks on us that they would have better security within our city.

I walk along Market Street five days a week and I walk by the F.B.I. building every morning around 6 a.m. Within the last week, I have seen no security there whatsoever, in fact the posts that are usually there to stop cars from going into the underground have been removed. What's up with that? Not only that but I have seen fewer police in the last week than in the past.

We have been lucky so far, but time is running out on us here in so called safe Northern California. I think we need to get our act together and pump up our security around here or we are going to be looking at another WTC.

Travis Jay Ruiall
San Francisco

U.S. should take own advice

Why Wayne Friday bothers to spin the truth regarding the anti-war demonstrators is questionable. He asks where the anti-war protesters were following the attacks on September 11 (*Our Man Friday, October 11*). We were on Market Street at 5 p.m. the following day. We were also in Oakland that day holding a candle light vigil. In fact, the "blame America" crowd, as he calls them, were the first to respond in denouncing the terrorist acts while calling for rational reactions and not "let's bomb the shit out of anyone, innocent or guilty."

There's a very concerted propaganda war going on now and I feel it's largely to cover up the fact that the U.S. CIA trained bin Laden and the Taliban, and because of this deserves some culpability for the rise of fundamentalist-inspired terrorism. We're not the "blame America" crowd. The world is. And, in fact, they're partially right (I would include Britain and a

few other Western powers). You may not like it, but if you take the "bury your head in the sand and hope it all goes away" approach of Friday, Bill O'Reilly, and the rest of these pundits, nothing's going to change and we will not be safe. We should always distrust the intentions of old men who want to send the young off to die. Because as usual, the dogs of war are unleashed by those who sit in a comfortable position; who don't care about their or other people's children.

Since the only solutions from the Wayne Friday crowd are just tired, archaic battle cries, let me offer, as a gay man for peace, some of my own. First, let the U.S. take its own advice and stop supporting terrorist states. These include Israel, Columbia, and Indonesia. If they want to stop terrorists, stop terrorizing. Second, prove to the Muslim world that bin Laden's guilty and let him be tried before an international court of law comprised of Muslim states. Third, no rollback of our civil liberties will stop terrorism. Make the FBI and CIA learn how to be detectives first, without giving them the power to do harm. Finally, stop the practices used to keep the rest of the world in dire poverty and subject to the whim of the U.S. This means dismantling oppressive economic practices of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, which holds poor countries hostage and allows for religious fundamentalism to rise.

Start there, and then maybe we will have some peace. Or bomb the shit out of the poor and create millions more bin Ladens. Which side you choose will determine the fate of future generations.

Kevin Weaver
San Francisco

At war

So we are at war. For real. Not a happy prospect for anyone. I hope that the allies' military actions are targeted for the terrorists and those who have helped and harbored them. I hope that it is quickly done and that we do no harm to the innocent as was done in New York and Tel Aviv.

And when we triumph over these monsters, it should be time for a reflection of what brought us to the place where we find ourselves. Osama bin Laden and the Taliban surely will fall and then a thousand other bin Ladens and Taliban members will rise to take their place. As a nation we must reexamine our policies and priorities. That should not mean that we turn our backs on Israel, our steadfast friend. Nor should it mean the domination of Palestine by anyone. It is going to take a lot of determination, patience, and genuine fair play for peace and justice to be attained. It will be worth it. We do not enjoy any other option if we want to live in a civilized world where people do not go hungry and do not kill.

Frederick Hobson
San Francisco

Play on words

We at Printed Leaf Press were delighted to see a review of Gerry Gomez Pearlberg's second collection of poems, *Mr. Bluebird* in the August 10 issue of the B.A.R., and appreciate the many positive things Deborah Peifer had to say about the book.

But Peifer misleads your readers by vigorously complaining about the book's "sloppy copy-editing," when in fact not a single error is to be found. Actually, in both cases where Peifer complains of typographical "errors," it is the reviewer herself who has missed the mark. In the interest of fairness, I am writing to clarify the matter.

Pearlberg's poem, "Somewhere in Wisconsin," is not, as Peifer asserts, a misspelling of the state's name, but a poetic morphing of the words "wistful" and "Wisconsin" which clearly reflects the poem's central theme and which other reviewers and readers have recognized as such.

Peifer also seems confused as to the meaning of the word "tressel." "What kind of train travels over a tressel?" she asks incredulously, apparently unaware that Webster's Ninth Dictionary offers two spellings – tressel and trestle – as acceptable for describing "a braced framework ... for carrying a road or railroad over a depression." In answer to Peifer's question, Pearlberg wrote the poem while watching a real train travel over a real tressel – hence the word choice. As for the spelling, that too is entirely intentional, creating an eye rhyme with the word "restlessness" in the line which follows it.

Ironically, both of Peifer's examples of the book's "sloppiness" are in fact illustrations of the poet's extreme care in putting words to page, so these aspects of the review are especially disappointing. Pearlberg's carefully wrought poems deserved a more attentive and careful review than Peifer – who seems quick to presume carelessness in others – was herself able to deliver.

As one who clearly appreciates Pearlberg's poetry, it would have been nice if Peifer had taken the time to consider whether her accusations of "sloppiness" was in fact correct – or if one of the copy editors at the B.A.R. had caught the reviewer's own errors.

Bill Sullivan, Publisher
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POLITICS

Herrera for city attorney

by Wayne Friday

It should come as no surprise to anyone who's been reading this column over the past couple of months that I strongly support **Dennis Herrera** for city attorney and urge a vote for him on November 6.

As a colleague of his on the San Francisco Police Commission for four years (including two and a half years while he was president) I've come to know Herrera as a friend, but more importantly, I've seen him in action as an extraordinarily able public servant. Not only is Herrera a top-notch lawyer (which certainly should be an essential credential for the city's top legal officer) he is the only city attorney candidate with a history of working with the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community on our critical issues and helping to elect our community's candidates to office.

I first met Herrera over a decade ago when the late lesbian pioneer **Rikki Streicher** introduced him as an old family friend. He expressed a desire then to get active in politics, and taking Streicher's advice, immersed himself in **Carole Migden**'s first campaign for supervisor. After that, it was domestic partners and other campaigns critical to our community. Herrera was always one of those straight guys who understood from the start that progressive politics in this town meant working in coalition with the LGBT community.

Herrera developed close friendships with many in our community before he went off to Washington in 1993 to run the day-to-day operations and manage the 1,100-member staff of the Federal Maritime Administration under former President **Bill Clinton** and former Transportation Secretary **Federico Pena**. When Herrera returned to San Francisco and rekindled his friendships and political alliances with many in our community, Mayor **Willie Brown** appointed him to the Public Transportation Commission, where he applied his expertise on transportation matters and worked to get Muni back on track. The mayor later appointed Herrera to the high-profile Police Commission, where he again proved his understanding and commitment to our issues.

Under Herrera's leadership, gay and lesbian police officers rose to the highest ranks, to the point where one of the heirs-apparent to the current police chief is respected lesbian Deputy Chief **Mindy Pengel**, a city resident and also a supporter of Herrera's. Not only did the Police Department under Commission President Herrera expand its training in gay and lesbian issues, a few months ago it adopted historic guidelines and training mandates to end any possible police mistreatment of transgender people in San Francisco.

As a result of these and other accomplishments, Herrera has earned the enthusiastic support of transgender activists such as **Theresa Sparks** and **Veronica Cauley**, Harvey Milk Club activists **Jeff Sheehy** and **Hank Wilson**, and the overwhelming majority of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club.

One of the most important and difficult responsibilities of



Dennis Herrera

being president of the Police Commission is conducting hearings into allegations of police misconduct and assigning discipline when necessary. Because of Herrera's even-handed fairness, the adversaries in these disciplinary hearings, the Police Officers Association and **Mary Dunlap**, the director of the Office of Citizens Complaints, both support Herrera for city attorney. Perhaps more significantly, Herrera has bridged the rift between Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** and Supervisor **Mark Leno**, both

of whom are enthusiastic Herrera supporters. In addition, Equal Benefits Advocates, former lesbian Supervisor **Leslie Katz**, and gay College Board Trustee **Lawrence Wong** are active members of the Herrera for City Attorney team. The late **Harvey Milk**'s political strategist from the 1970s, **Jim Rivaldo**, is running the Herrera campaign.

I personally know two of the three other candidates in the city attorney race; they are fine people and would likely serve the city well in the job. Dennis Herrera, however, offers our community in particular, and the city of San Francisco in general, a candidate we can trust and respect. Be assured he's the best candidate in the race. Join me in voting for Dennis Herrera for city attorney on November 6.

Politics and people

You can read more than you want to know about the war on terrorism elsewhere; let's just hope this thing is soon over. **Osama bin Laden** goes directly to hell, and Americans can soon get back to living the decent, good life that we deserve. Just be sure to take care of yourselves, folks ... enough said on that.

Andre W. Lewis, whose father's first cousin is U.S. Secretary of State **Colin Powell**, and who calls the prominent Republican his uncle, has been hired as deputy political director of the **Gray Davis** re-election committee. Raised in Southern California, Lewis, 37, has worked in politics at the national, state, and local level and Davis's aides say the governor only recently found out he was in fact a nephew of the secretary of state.

Senator **Hillary Rodham Clinton** (D-New York), the keynote speaker at the Human Rights Campaign's recent annual dinner, said that surviving partners of gay and lesbian victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11 should get the same help and benefits that the families of other victims get. "We have to make it very clear that what we're fighting for is our values," Senator Clinton, with husband in attendance, told the receptive crowd.

Incidentally, my New York po-

litical informants tell me that gays and lesbians in the world's greatest city are quickly lining up behind Democrat **Mark Green** as their candidate for mayor in next month's election; Green is opposed by billionaire Republican communications executive **Michael Bloomberg**.

Also in New York, a single night of comedy featuring **Jerry Seinfeld**, **Chris Rock**, **Will Ferrell**, and others at Carnegie Hall raised nearly \$2 million for the New York Police and Fire Widows and Children's Fund. (Mayor **Rudy Giuliani** quietly tried to sneak in after the lights went down but instantly received a standing ovation, stopping the onstage show.)

Giuliani, incidentally, is reportedly a good friend of California GOV gubernatorial candidate **William Simon** and has told the candidate he will campaign for him here before the primary against his Republican opponents, **Richard Riordan** and **Bill Jones**.

Supervisor **Mark Leno**, the Democratic candidate for the 13th Assembly District, picked up the endorsements last week of Congressmembers **Anna Eshoo** and **Lynn Woolsey**, as well as state Senator **Jackie Speier**.

In Kansas, state Senator **Kay O'Connor** (R) angered even her fellow GOP legislators when she made a speech in which she said that "women's suffrage is a sign that American society doesn't value the family enough." O'Connor also said that she didn't view the 19th Amendment allowing women the right to vote as something to celebrate and that women would not feel the need to vote if men took care of them properly.

Remember **Andy Rooney**, the 80-something longtime commentator from CBS' *60 Minutes*, known in the past for his anti-gay cracks? Well, old Andy stepped in it again recently when he tried to get cute by poking fun at President **George W. Bush** in saying that Bush didn't sound too "swift" when he said that America's enemies in Afghanistan think their "harbors are safe, but they won't be safe forever." Rooney was sure he was pointing out a presidential gaffe when he said that Bush should know that "Afghanistan is land-locked; it doesn't have a harbor." Rooney received numerous on-air jibes from others for his flub. "If Rooney didn't know the meaning of 'safe harbor' he probably thought the 'underground railroad' had tracks," said one. Said another: "If he really thought Bush meant seaports, Andy must think that 'wildlife preserves' are breakfast jams." A bit late, perhaps, Rooney realized that Bush or whoever wrote the speech for him — was speaking metaphorically, not literally, and said that he will apologize to the president. The guy never did get around to apologizing on the air for his past homophobic comments.

Finally, my "quote of the week" from San Francisco comedian **Will Durst**, the host of PBS' *Livelhood*, still poking jokes at the Reverend **Jerry Falwell** for his now-infamous comment that gays and feminists were somehow the cause of the September 11 terrorist attacks on America. Durst: "Falwell blames the attacks on gays, feminists and the ACLU; of course, this is the same guy who thought a purple Teletubby was a homosexual recruiter. I think in a former life he must have been a reusable piñata at an El Paso gay bar."

And how was your week? ▼

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Left out

by Dale Carpenter

In a gay community united in support of a just and necessary war against a network of mass murderers and the theocratic dictatorship shielding them, a few isolated voices have distinguished themselves by their mushy-headed disapproval. For these gay-left writers, the real enemies are not Islamic extremists who crash planes into office buildings but American "militarism," gay assimilation, "unthinking patriotism," children reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and a president prone to malapropism.

Consider a recent article by the author Michael Bronski. Shortly after the September 11 attacks, some gay activists prematurely celebrated when it was believed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" – the policy of discharging openly gay service members – might be suspended during the crisis. Yet

Bronski says he is "frightened" by the possibility that gays might be allowed to serve. "Why," he asks, "would any gay and lesbian group be happy that 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' be lifted?"

Bronski nostalgically lauds the gay liberationists of the late 1960s and early 1970s who sought "social justice, anti-racism, [and] anti-militarism."

He avers that gay liberation groups of that era would never have "advocated for the right of American homosexuals to fight in Viet Nam [sic]."

Bronski contrasts this with present-day gay-rights groups, who want the "right" to be just like everyone else, including the right to defend the country when it's attacked. This is the familiar charge of assimilation, the worst possible offense in the liberationist catalogue.

Instead of wrapping themselves "in a flag of uncritical and unthinking patriotism," writes Bronski, gay groups ought to sup-

ply "draft counselors" to young gay men who might want to resist a future draft.

Someone should tell Bronski it's not 1968 anymore and the Vietnam War is over. September 11 was the bloodiest single day in American history, with thousands of civilians killed by a foreign enemy on American soil for the

en.

However flawed, Bronski's world view is at least coherent, a charge that can't be leveled at the next nervous Nellie of the left. Matt Lum, writing in the *Texas Triangle*, reports it's been "disconcerting" to see "all these red, white and blue flags flapping in my face everywhere I go." With all the self-



OutRight

Many gay Americans today want very much to serve their country. That's true even – no, especially – when it's directly threatened.

first time in 185 years. Whatever the ideological fixations of a by-gone era – and Bronski is wrong as a matter of history to suggest gays in the 1960s weren't fighting to end discrimination in the military – many gay Americans today want very much to serve their country. That's true even – no, especially – when it's directly threat-

satisfaction of someone who imagines he's just discovered a political phenomenon, he snickers: "All this talk of freedom and opportunity, the American spirit. For some."

Lum pronounces himself "suspicious" when students recite the words "One nation, under God" during the Pledge of Allegiance.

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HEART 2 HEART
friday oct 19 @ 8pm

photo: Steven Baratz

part of the SEX/life series

HEART 2 HEART
A Community Forum

Friday Oct 19, 2001
8 - 10pm at STOP AIDS Project
2128 15th Street (@ Market)

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Next, Lum takes shots at President Bush for saying the terrorists "misunderestimated" him and for predicting a "winning victory," as if a verbal misstep matters next to the administration's widely-acclaimed, adroit handling of complex diplomatic and military strategy.

I suppose this elevation of form over substance – of words over policy – is what we should expect of a generation raised on Bill Clinton's politics.

After creatively observing that "this whole thing seems to be more about beef and petroleum than anything else," Lum closes: "Practice peace, people."

Guess what, Mr. Lum? You have the "freedom and opportunity" to criticize a sitting president at a time of supreme national crisis precisely because, when the need arose, your forebears had "the American spirit" at which you sneer to give their lives to defend your rights.

I guess we can't expect the same of Lum, who is discombobulated by waving flags. But it's a little bit too much to admonish us to "practice peace" when we're still shoveling up the ashes of 6,000 dead.

Perhaps the most tortured reaction comes from gay-left activist Pokey Anderson, writing in Houston's *OutSmart* magazine. The September 11 attack, she writes, quoting a wise and knowledgeable uncle, "is the fruit of our callous arrogant flaunted before helpless people for decades and decades of their sufferings."

This about a country that has been more generous with its hard-earned riches than any before in history.

Instead of "blindly bombing" in a mad desire "to lash out at somebody, anybody," Anderson advises that we rethink our opposition to "numerous treaties such as the Kyoto Protocol" on global warming and attend gatherings like the recent "World Conference Against Racism," memorable mostly for its anti-Semitism.

I have news for Anderson. We're not blindly bombing Afghanistan; in fact, given the circumstances, we've been almost unbelievably restrained in our efforts not to harm innocents, even at the expense of quickly eliminating the terrorists who threaten us with every passing day. A truly militarist nation, lashing out at anybody and blinded by flapping flags and unthinking patriotism, would have disposed of the matter with a couple of well-placed nukes.

Osama bin Laden and his syndicate will not be satisfied by a more equal distribution of wealth or more global warming treaties or more conferences denouncing racism. They are not motivated, as some on the left imagine, by the left's own long list of grievances against the West.

No, Mr. Bronski, Mr. Lum, and Ms. Anderson, they just want you dead. And they want you dead because you live in a strong country that defends religious pluralism and individual liberty, which they abhor.

Now would you please let the rest of us get on with the business of figuring out how to defend you against them? ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

A few words with you

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

One of the hardest parts of writing a column is making sure that my readers will be able to understand what I am trying to say. Trying to explain transgenderism while using transgender-specific terms can only make it harder.

I know what I mean when I say "transgender," but I have to guess at what you might think I mean when I say it. I use it as an umbrella term, including all who transcend the gender assigned to them at birth. Not all agree with me on that usage, and I suspect many of those reading would contest such a broad definition.

Of course, I've also defined it as a more flippant tone: I can't say exactly what transgender means, but I know it when I see it. Not that such a statement answers our query.

Usually when one is questioning the meaning of a word, they turn a standard reference, such as the dictionary. Unfortunately, "transgender" has not made it to all the dictionaries, and even those that do include it often have unsatisfactory definitions to offer.

The *American Heritage Dictionary* has two definitions for transgendered, though the second is disposable. The first isn't much better: "appearing as, wishing to be considered as, or having undergone surgery to become a member of the opposite sex."

It's actually not as bad as I paint it to be. Given that the word is still in dispute in transgender circles, I can appreciate that the good folks from the Hutton Mifflin Company even made an effort.

There are those who are transsexual-identified (although some of them would even take offense at being called transsexual) who claim that transgender does not include those who have opted for surgery — it is only for those who have opted to live in a chosen gender. I've even heard some who have given the exact opposite definition, claiming that it only refers to those who have opted for surgical intervention, and not to those who are quite content with original factory equipment.

While I'm digging through the dictionary, I note that the definition for transsexual is almost exactly the same as transgendered, defining a transsexual as either "one who wishes to be considered by society as a member of the opposite sex," or "one who has undergone a sex change."

Confusing indeed.

Of course, if one is trying to define by "sex change," then we get stuck defining just what that means. The term has lost favor over "sexual reassignment surgery" or "genital reconstruction surgery," amongst other variations, but generally refers to taking one set of genitals and replacing them with another.

It's not as easy as that, however. While that may apply for a male-to-female person, the line is not as hard and fast for female-to-males. The ability to construct a good, functional penis is just not at the same level as the surgical construction of a vagina. Given the overall quality, coupled with the high incidence of complications, a lot of guys opt to pass on that bit of cutting in favor of



Transmissions



keeping what they have to begin with. I don't blame them.

Does that mean that a female-to-male who doesn't get a surgically-created penis isn't a "proper" transsexual, or is the definition at fault? If surgery is the dividing line, then perhaps an FTM is defined as the time of a chest reconstruction, or maybe when a hysterectomy is pursued. Of course, not many define a transsexual by when they have surgery, and some even consider themselves to no longer be transsexual once they have opted for a snip or two.

See how confusing this can be? It can be almost impossible to really hammer down all the terms into a meaningful definition that will be widely accepted. Even those who take the opposite gender role occasionally face terminology confusion, with some seeing "cross dresser" as the preferred term, while others prefer "transvestite." That doesn't even touch on drag king, drag queen, male impersonator, or female mimic.

Of course, that points out another problem that creeps into the mix. If none of the terms seem to fit, then the standard has been to make up your own. New terms pop out of nowhere every few years, and given that I can't keep up with them all, I hardly expect anyone else to. I tend to only use the more unique terms when nothing else will do — and that is pretty rare.

After all, it can be hard enough just to get the basics of transgender identity, without terms like femiphile and autogynephilia popping in and out of the transgender vernacular. Don't worry if you don't know what femiphile and autogynephilia mean: only one of them is currently used with any frequency, and it's very hotly contested — but I digress.

Even "transgender" itself is a relatively new term. It can be traced back into the 1980s, with some effort, but only gained widespread acceptance in the mid-1990s. It was originally intended to only refer to those who live full time in a chosen gender, but do not have surgery. It was certainly not meant to refer to the whole spectrum of what we now refer to as "transgender identity."

So what to do? With all these terms, and all the possible — and often contradictory — definitions for them, it is a surprise that we are able to communicate at all.

I suspect it all boils down to a game of wait and see, and holding out some hope that all these terms will eventually settle into something useful, easy to define, and maybe even catchy.

Until then, I'm sticking with knowing transgender when I see it. I hope you can too. ▼

Gwen Smith notes that all these terms give her spell-checker a fit. You can find her on the Web at www.gwensmith.com or in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo."

Bi men's conference this month in San Diego

by Liz Highleyman

During the weekend of October 26-28, the American Institute of Bisexuality will sponsor the second annual Bisexual Men's Awareness Institute conference, to be held in San Diego.

The conference welcomes all bisexual and "bi-curious" men. Workshop topics will include "First Bi/Gay Experiences," "Fathering and Bi Parenting," and "Coming Out Issues." There will be a welcome reception on Friday October 26 and a banquet with live entertainment Saturday evening.

Author and AIB founder Dr. Fritz Klein hopes the conference will "dispel the common perception that bisexuals are basically straight with a taste for exotic adventure or gays who are unwilling to accept their true sexual orientation."

The MAI conference is one of the few events devoted to bringing bi men together to foster acceptance and community building. "When bisexual men get together in an open, friendly atmosphere," noted Klein, "you'd be surprised how happy they are with their sexuality." ▼

The MAI conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Select in San Diego. Registration will be available on-site. For more information, call (562) 983-3102 or see www.bisexual.org/pages/newconf/sdsdiego.



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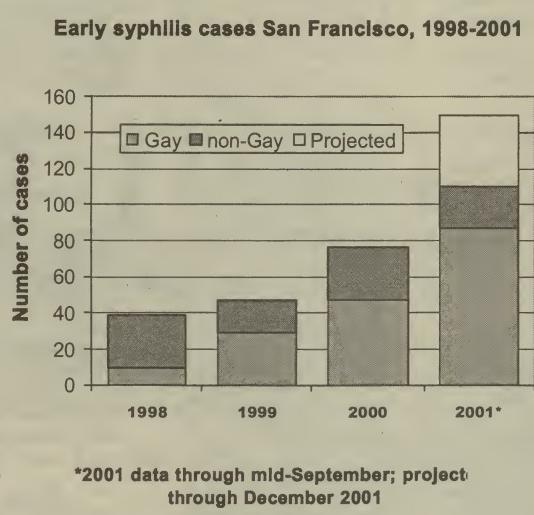
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'I feel good'

Folks had fun at AOFC's Family Day

by Joe Dignan

"feel good," said Cheryl Deane, outgoing head of All Our Families Coalition, as she bounced inside a giant inflatable red dinosaur near to the end of this year's Family Day celebration on Saturday, October 13. "Getting in the jump tent is my reward for doing this. Adults aren't normally allowed."

Deane was honored at the event, held at the San Francisco Unitarian Universalist Center, by both the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and by the California state Assembly for her work in founding and running AOFC. The coalition works for the civil rights of families with LGBT members and organizes social events, like this year's Family Day.

Several hundred LGBT families attended the event, including kids with two moms, kids with two dads, and kids with single parents.

They ate hot dogs and pizza, played carnival games that had rainbow colored Slinkies as prizes, rolled in swimming pools full of rainbow colored balls and got their faces painted by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, something not too many kids of straight parents get to do.

Even with all that, a kid raised by LGBT parents behaves much like a child raised by heterosexual couples at the end of a long day. "He's a little tired," conceded one



Baby Pelinor gets fed by mom Danu, left, as Linci looks on.

Jane Philomen Cleland

of the mothers of an 18-month-old as he crawled by the jump tent.

A child in an alternative family often faces exclusion from the social structures of the straight world, because his or her parents are often defined by others, particularly the religious right, as "different." Deane founded the coalition to bring together families with LGBT members and let the kids, and their parents, know that there are plenty of others like them and, in Deane's words, "give substance to a whole population which legally doesn't exist."

San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno presented a certificate from the board, which praised Deane, not only for her work in building AOFC, but for being the "lesbian mother of a San Francisco teenager."

"We feel lucky. Our daughter won two prizes at the raffle. We officially became domestic partners just about an hour ago," said Laura Horn as partner Margaret Miller beamed beside her.

Fourteen couples registered at the fair on Saturday anticipating that Governor Gray Davis would sign Assemblywoman Carole Migden's (D-San Francisco) Assembly Bill 25 on Sunday. The bill, which Davis did sign [see story, page 1] provides the most comprehensive guarantees for the civil rights of gay and lesbian couples in the history of the state of California.

California by elevating the status of domestic partners here.

James DeVinn and Jim DeLaHunt represented Marriage Equality California at the panel discussion on political activism. "You're not going to get true equality without using the 'm' word," said DeLaHunt of AB25.

"One thousand and forty nine laws are effected by marriage status," added DeVinn. "It's going to be a big long struggle."

Away from the panel discussions, some people gathered or gave out information about various services for the community.

"I feel okay," said a slightly willed Camille Maran as she stood next to the information table for the soon-to-be-opened LGBT Community Center. In addition to explaining about the center's programs, showing the diagrams and pictures, she had spent the day applying temporary tattoos of the center's logo and giving away glow-in-the-dark pens, a major hit among the pre-teen set, also customized with the center's logo and which, with a twist of the top, revealed a bubble-blowing wand.

Moura Shannon arrived late, but was happy to make it to the event. "It's really nice to be here. We were late getting here. We just got here," she said. "We have a new baby and we're really overwhelmed with the basic things in life." ▼

LGBT family groups unite

by Joe Dignan

San Francisco's All Our Families Coalition will merge with East Bay-based Our Family to form a combined organization to be called "Our Family Coalition" according to AOFC's deputy director Charles Spiegel.

The combined organization will move into new space at the LGBT Community Center in San Francisco when it opens in December, where they hope to offer expanded programs, including a day-care center.

Spiegel will serve as interim director of the new group while its board searches for a permanent salaried executive director.

"The most obvious change is that we will have paid staff, an executive director," said Beth Gerstein, chair of the planning committee for Our Family.

While AOFC has had paid staff for several years, Our Family has been a volunteer organization.

"Our Family has been about establishing social networks," explained AOFC board member Elaine Herscher. "AOFC has been more political, coalition building. So we're merging two complementary organizations."

"Planning social events, that kind of stuff, we hope will stay the same," continued Gerstein. "We don't want this to be just a San Francisco-based organization. We try to go all over the place."

AOFC's director and founder Cheryl Deane will step down, Spiegel said, to expand her family and couples counseling practice.

"I'm one of the luckiest people in the world," Deane said at AOFC's recent Family Day event, "it's like watching your family do really well. And next year, somebody else is going to have to do all of this." ▼

NATIONAL NEWS

American employers offer domestic partner benefits in record numbers, report says

by Matthew S. Bajko

The number of U.S. employers offering domestic partner health insurance benefits increased by 50 percent in the last two years, according to a new report by the Human Rights Campaign.

At least 172 U.S. employers added domestic partner health insurance benefits from August 2000 through August 2001 according to "The State of the Workplace for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Americans." That was an increase of 20 percent over 2000.

Daryl Herrschaff, manager of HRC Worknet and principal author of the report, noted that while the study found no reduction in the number of employers adding domestic partner benefits, "it may be too soon to tell what, if any, impact we might see from rising health insurance costs, and the economic instability that began with the bursting of the high-tech bubble and has worsened since the attacks against the United States on September 11."

Procter and Gamble, Cincinnati, Ohio's largest private employer, became the latest company to announce it will begin offering domestic partner benefits to its employees. The company made the announcement Friday, October 5 at the start of the Out and Equal Workplace Summit in Erlanger, Kentucky.

San Francisco-based Out and Equal - workplace advocates who work with employees who are petitioning their employers to offer domestic partner benefits - deliberately chose to hold its summit across the river from Cincinnati to demonstrate its opposition to Ar-

ticle XII. The charter amendment was passed by Cincinnati voters in 1993 and bars the city from offering anti-discrimination protection to gays and lesbians.

Also at the conference, a coalition of various groups was formed to petition ExxonMobil to offer domestic partner benefits to its employees. Mobil employees had the benefits until the two companies merged in 1999.

"Now, more than ever given the September 11 tragedy, we need to be talking about respect for each other, respect for differences," said Selisse Berry, executive director of Out and Equal. "We are working with companies to help them understand gender identity and to recognize that is the next phase of organizing within the LGBT community."

As of August 2001, a total of 4,284 companies, colleges and universities, and state and local governments were offering or had announced they would offer health insurance coverage to the domestic partners of their employees, the HRC's study found. This was up from 3,752 employers in 2000 and 2,856 in August 1999 - a 50 percent increase in two years.

In addition, the number of Fortune 500 companies offering DP benefits has more than doubled in the past three years, from 61 in 1998 to 145 in 2001. In fact, more Fortune 500 companies - 36 - have added domestic partner benefits in 2001 than in any year since HRC has tracked the trend.

"Domestic partner benefits continued to spread at a brisk pace over the last year," said Kim I. Mills, education director of the HRC and editor of the report. Mills oversees HRC Worknet, the organization's workplace project, which has tracked these and related trends since 1995. "We believe employers are bringing their policies into line with the changing makeup of the American family - as demonstrated in census data released this year

- and to the growing body of evidence that these benefits are a low-cost means of attracting and retaining good employees."

Still waiting at ANG

Reporters at ANG newspapers in the Bay Area are trying to convince their employer, the Denver-based Media News Group owned by Dean Singleton, that offering DP benefits and adopting sexual orientation language in non-discrimination policies is good for business.

Nearly 200 Guild-represented workers at the *Oakland Tribune* and six other Bay Area papers have been working without a contract since August 17. The company has refused to agree, without reservation, to non-discrimination language protecting gays or other groups and has yet to respond to a proposal for domestic partner benefits, according to union leaders.

More than half of the nation's top 100 newspapers offer equal benefits for same-sex partners, including eight of the top 10 U.S. newspapers. Gannett, the largest newspaper publisher in the country with 98 U.S. papers, including *USA Today*, as well as 22 television stations announced in August it would provide DP benefits to its employees beginning January 1, 2002.

Many employers continue to add sexual orientation to their non-discrimination policies. As of August 15, 2001, HRC Worknet had identified 2,001 companies, colleges and universities, state and local governments and federal agencies that had written non-discrimination policies covering sexual orientation. This represents an increase of 239 employers or 17 percent, in one year.

This included 294, or 59 percent, of Fortune 500 companies. HRC Worknet found 39 Fortune 500 companies added sexual orientation to their non-discrimination policies during the period

covered by the report, a 15 percent increase over the prior year.

In addition to corporate America, many governmental bodies now ban anti-gay discrimination in workplaces in their jurisdictions, including 11 states, the District of Columbia and 122 cities and counties. Maryland had passed a bill prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations slated to become law on October 1.

However, that law did not go into effect because a conservative coalition has filed petitions seeking a referendum on the law in November 2002. The petition signatures are currently being challenged in court.

An increasing number of governments are enacting prohibitions against job discrimination based on gender identity. Two states - Minnesota and Iowa - the District of Columbia and 32 cities or counties protect transgender or gender-different employees by law or executive order.

Since August 2000, two states passed measures to provide domestic partner health insurance benefits: Maine and Rhode Island. A total of eight states and 105 cities, counties and quasi-governmental agencies provide domestic partner benefits.

The report also found that two-thirds of employers that offer domestic partner health insurance benefits offer them to both same-sex and opposite-sex partners. The higher on the Fortune 500 list a company is, the more likely it is to offer domestic partner benefits and prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

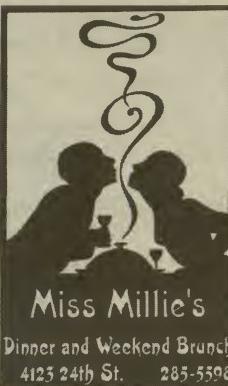
A total of 79 percent of the Fortune 100 and 88 percent of the Fortune 50 prohibit sexual orientation discrimination. While 29 percent of the Fortune 500 companies provide DP benefits, 54 percent of Fortune 50 companies offer the benefits. ▼

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Bike tour

◀ page 2

room,' but older gay men go there because there was such a sense of pride, sitting in that window, waving as your friends went by. It was the first place you could do that."

The tour will also visit protest sights. Where what is now the California Culinary Academy was California Hall, site of a 1965 New Year's Day "costume ball" which was to be a fundraiser for the Council on Religion and the Homosexual, started the year before by a group of ministers, including Cecil Williams.

"The cops turned up with Klieg lights and photo vans. The cops stayed away from the ministers, but some people were arrested on flimsy pretenses. They were found not guilty, but it mobilized the community here," Gabriel said.

The tour will pass Civic Center, where the 1978 "White Night" riots brought gay politics to the steps of City Hall.

"When we checked out the sites for this ride," said Gabriel, "the three or four people with me started talking about the experiences they had had in these places, and it was great. So this isn't going to be some kind of mobile lecture tour. It's going to be a conversation." ▶

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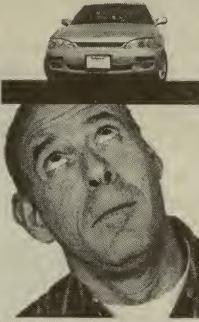
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Nancy Pelosi to lead House Democrats

by Bob Roehr

Nancy Pelosi was elected whip by the Democratic caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives on October 10. The eight-term veteran from San Francisco will take over the number two leadership slot in January when David Bonior steps down to run for governor of Michigan. Pelosi is a strong friend of the gay and lesbian community and has been a leading voice on AIDS issues.

Pelosi, 61, defeated fellow liberal Representative Steny Hoyer (Maryland) by a convincing 118 to 95 margin to become the first woman to advance so high in the congressional leadership of either party. The victory was built upon the large block of votes from California and, although she did not make an appeal to it, upon her gender, combined with good old-fashioned politicking.

After the vote, Pelosi was presented with a leather whip, in a symbolic reference to what will be her new job of securing votes among Democratic House members.

The job of party whip is to round up support and count votes on the party's agenda, using a combination of carrots and sticks to move recalcitrant members into line. The Republican coun-



out for her San Francisco constituents, who receive more federal money per AIDS case than any other jurisdiction, but she also "gets more money for AIDS for everyone across the country," he said.

But not all AIDS advocates supported Pelosi. Patrick Monette-Shaw, a San Francisco activist, wrote to Democratic members of the House on September 30 urging them to vote for Hoyer.

"As you may not know," he wrote, "much of the federal funds routed to AIDS Inc. in San Francisco is spent on such frivolities as flirting classes, fist fighting how-to seminars, HIV proms..." while some people in other jurisdictions lack basic medicines and services. He urged the members to "send a message to Pelosi et al. that AIDS Inc.'s Fleecing-of-America days are numbered."

The letter seemed to have had little effect.

"Few people know more about AIDS" than Pelosi, said Bill Arnold with the ADAP Working Group. "I have high hopes because she knows how all of the programs are interrelated." The congresswoman often has taken the lead in building the bipartisan coalitions that have overwhelmingly supported increased funding for AIDS.

In the "really tough appropriations environment" that he anticipates for next year, Anderson said, "It's really nice having someone like [Pelosi] at the table, because the leadership often gets what it wants." ▼

Annan 'humbled' by Nobel Peace Prize award

United Press International

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Friday, October 12 said he was "humbled but also encouraged" by winning the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize. The Norway Nobel Committee announced that Annan and the United Nations would split the honor and the \$946,200 cash award.

The formal presentation of the Peace Prize will be December 10.

Annan said he believed the committee, which cited the United Nation's and the secretary-general's work toward a "better organized and more peaceful world," also recognized his work against AIDS and his fight against poverty. "It's a wonderful award," Annan said in an impromptu news conference in front of his residence. "We are extremely pleased, particularly coming as it does at this time when we are tackling some very difficult issues around the world."

"In my kind of work you don't get this kind of news every day and usually when the phone rings early in the morning there's some bad news somewhere around the world..."

Annan, 63, has led the United Nations since January 1, 1997. Last year, the native of Ghana was unanimously elected to a second term as secretary-general. That term expires December 31, 2006.

He is the second U.N. secretary-general to win the Peace Prize. Dag Hammarskjold won in 1961.

While this marked the first time the overall organization won the Peace Prize, parts of the United Nations — the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (twice), the U.N. Children's Fund and the U.N. Peacekeeping forces — have been honored previously.

"It's a prize that honors the United Nations but also challenges us. Challenges us to do more and to do better and not to rest on our laurels and I think it's an indication that the United Nations is a very important organization in this interdependent world where we have to work together as a nation," Annan said.

He said the citation that came with the award said the world organization needed "to encourage international cooperation and that I believe that has become even more important in today's world," Annan added. "They gave it to the United Nations not only to recognize what we have achieved in the past but to encourage us to really move forward and work with governments and make sure there is true international cooperation and multilateralism and that is the challenge I was referring to."

Personally, Annan said he felt "Humbled. Humbled, but also encouraged. It is not something you expect. You go about doing your work and it feels good but it's just humbling." ▼



Federal AIDS funding increases, ADAP shortfalls noted

by Bob Roehr

The House of Representatives boosted President Bush's AIDS budget by about 5 percent in passing the appropriations bill for the Department of Health and Human Services on October 11. The bipartisan effort had the strong support of the White House. The Senate is moving forward with a different set of increases and the differences will be resolved in conference.

While praising these efforts, AIDS advocates noted that money set aside for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, despite an increase of about 10 percent in the House version, is still woefully inadequate to meet increasing demand for those therapies.

"In this time of national crisis, Congress could have lost sight of other key priorities, so we applaud the House for keeping in focus the crucial battle against HIV and AIDS," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign.

Log Cabin Republican spokesman Kevin Ivers singled out AIDS "czar" Scott Evertz "for his tireless and effective leadership

in securing funding commitments and keeping AIDS squarely in focus at a time of war."

Conservative Representative Dave Weldon (R-Florida) offered an amendment on the House floor to transfer an additional \$60 million from Title I (big city) programs of the Ryan White CARE Act to ADAP. A second Weldon amendment tried to move \$40 million in AIDS prevention money from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to mother and child health care programs. Both efforts lost badly on voice votes.

"It was a political gimmick," said Bill Arnold, a lobbyist with the ADAP Working Group.

"Cutting any program is unacceptable," added Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS.

Arnold welcomed the increased money for ADAP and the pledge from HHS to dole it out early, but he called the funds insufficient to meet the problem. "All it does is push all of the problems off a few months." He predicted waiting lists to join state ADAP programs, caps on enrollment, more limitations on the drugs covered, and some plans

might even go bankrupt. New York state predicts a \$20 million growth in demand for ADAP and faces a \$7 million shortfall due to inadequate federal support. Florida seems even closer to the brink of insolvency and may go belly up early next year.

"If ADAP isn't properly funded, the other [programs] are going to go too," said Arnold. "Clients are dependent on all of these [program] funding streams." He believes that some local community planning councils will see drugs as the central issue and will try to shift some money from support services to help pay for therapy.

AIDS services organizations are under increasing financial pressure as donor fatigue, a weakening economy, and competition for dollars by relief efforts for victims of the terrorist attacks have cut into their fundraising.

AIDS advocates will be working to get the higher budget numbers accepted in the House-Senate conference, and possibly even add on to them for the ADAP program.

Anderson warned, "The fact that [Weldon's amendments] came up for debate should give us pause for next year, getting the necessary increases in funding will become even more difficult." ▼

Black Coalition on AIDS to host open house

by Cynthia Laird

The Black Coalition on AIDS will open its doors to the general public this Tuesday, October 23 in San Francisco.

David Wallace, communications director for the agency, noted that the open house celebration will allow community members to see the agency's new South of Market location and learn more about the programs and services provided in a continuing effort to stop the spread of AIDS in the black community.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will include works from local artists Keba Konte, Keina Davis, and others. The co-sponsor of the open house is *Arise* magazine, a monthly publication dedicated to the lives of diverse people of African descent, and representatives from the magazine are expected to be on hand.

Now in its 15th year of service, BCA's focus is expanding to address social factors that contribute to the spread of HIV in the black community. Some of its recent work was reported on earlier this year in the *Bay Area Reporter*, including a public awareness campaign at predomi-

nantly black churches in the city.

"Factors such as poverty, homelessness, violence, homophobia, and other issues must be addressed in our community in order to more effectively deal with this epidemic," said Duane T. Poe, BCA's executive director.

Pointing to new collaborations with the San Francisco Sheriff's Department to work with prisoners, as well as a recent grant from the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women for a collaboration addressing how violence against women and girls contributes to HIV/AIDS transmission, Poe said he feels these new areas of focus will be successful.

He added that the art displays complement BCA's efforts. "By reaching out through these talented local artists, we are helping not only to increase the audience for their work, but also increasing the reach of our important messages and the work that we do." ▼

BCA's Tuesday open house
takes place from 3-7 p.m. at its office, 495 Clementina Street (off Sixth Street, near Folsom). For more information, call (415) 615-9945.

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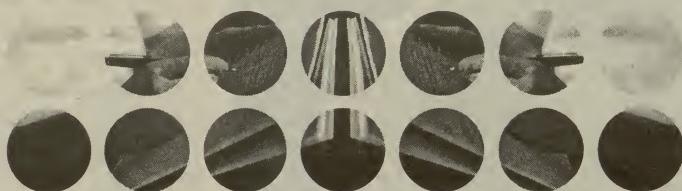
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MICHAEL
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Facial Plastic
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by Katie Szymanski

Many community advocates have remarked that the events of September 11 have in some ways made LGBT people equal in the eyes of many citizens; from heroes like Mark Bingham on United Airlines Flight 93 to ground zero acts of courage by Father Mychal Judge, the world now knows that gays are just as capable of being worthy Americans. If only the laws would catch up.

A glimmer of hope appeared last week when the first major policy changes due to the tragedy came, not surprisingly, out of New York. Governor George Pataki, the only statewide Republican officer, issued an executive order on Thursday, October 11, granting surviving partners of gay victims equal benefits as spouses under the state's Crime Victims Board. The order marks the first step in the nation, according to New York's Empire State Pride Agenda, "to address the inequities faced by gay and lesbian survivors of the terrorist attacks in obtaining benefits." All New York state residents — whether killed in the World Trade Center towers or on the air-



New York Gov. George Pataki

planes — are eligible, according to ESPA.

Crime victim benefits previously available to surviving LGBT partners would have fallen under a "75 percent rule," applicable to all unmarried survivors, who must prove that the deceased provided three quarters of the household income. There is no income percentage required for married spouses, and now, thanks to the order, gay couples will be viewed as spouses for the purpose of this fund.

"Things have changed," said

ESPA spokesman Joe Tarver on the LGBT New Yorkers' relationship with Republicans. ESPA had lobbied Pataki for the benefits, and when the governor spoke at the organization's event on October 4, he announced his intention to address the discrimination.

Unfortunately, benefits like Social Security and worker's compensation, said Tarver, remain available to spouses but are bound by federal laws that prohibit gay partners from accessing them.

"Those are benefits that can add up to thousands of dollars a year and tens of thousands of dollars over a lifetime," said Tarver, adding that ESPA is working on these issues "one step at a time."

"We're working hard on the new federal relief funds in terms of what the definition of survivor is going to be," he said. "We're also reaching out to relief agencies to help them develop guidelines to deal with gay survivors."

Obtaining federal relief for surviving partners will be groundbreaking and therefore met by opposition, said Tarver, who noted that the Reverend Lou Sheldon of the Family Research Council had come out against Pataki's move and lambasted ESPA for attempting to "redefine what marriage is." ▼

State Senate

◀ page 3

worked together was in 1984 at the start of the AIDS epidemic.

"What bothers me is the lack of concern about this," said Paul Hogan, Alice Club chair. "There would be hell to pay if the lines had been drawn down the middle of Mission Street or Grant Street in Chinatown."

The Log Cabin club began informing people about the new lines at the Castro Street Fair, and leaders of the political groups met over the weekend to discuss the issue. One possibility is for the LGBT community to join the Mexican American Legal Defense Education Fund's lawsuit against the state's redistricting.

"We could do an amicus brief for the community as a whole to support that lawsuit. Either the Legislature will revisit the lines or the courts will have to do it," said Bowman.

Not only upset with the symbolic separation of the Castro, the groups fear the new distribution of voters will make it less likely an LGBT candidate will be elected to fill Burton's seat in 2004. Burton will be termed out of office and is looking to run for a congressional seat.

"It disempowers the gay community and reduces the chance a

gay person running in 2004 can be elected to the state Senate," said Bowman.

As for why the district was redrawn, Burton said legislators wanted to avoid the African American community filing suit over redistricting. He said the new district should have little impact on the gay community's political voice.

"The standpoint from a political view is it really doesn't affect the ability of a gay candidate to be elected from that Senate seat," he said. "Now the district is a more progressive district and can elect a gay candidate easier than the old district. It also even helps ensure progressive representation in the other seat."

Achieving that goal could have been done without splitting apart the Castro community said the LGBT political groups. Instead, the groups said the lines for Burton's district could have been moved to incorporate more of the Marina or the Panhandle into Speier's district.

"The question is, did we have to split the LGBT community to achieve that and the answer is no," said Threet. "If you want to go up and grab precincts in Burton's district to make up the difference, you get them up there and then you won't split the LGBT community."

During the 12 days in which the new maps were posted online be-

fore the Legislature voted, Burton said no one in the LGBT community notified his office they had a problem with the redrawn district.

"It was on the Web site for the whole world to see. If the issue would have been raised, then there probably was a way to make the adjustment," said Burton. "If it was a surprise, it was because no one paid attention to it."

But each of the LGBT political groups had members watching the redistricting plans and participating in public meetings held on the subject. Those involved said the maps presented at those meetings and posted on the Web site did not show Castro Street being used as the dividing line.

"The maps available at that point did not split Castro Street. So even if you checked the maps, they did not put you on alert that you needed to come back to address the issue," said Threet. "The senator representing this district has an obligation to come to the community if a change like that was going to be made. He did not do that."

Burton's district includes Marin County, part of Sonoma County and the eastern portion of San Francisco. Speier's district includes the western half of San Francisco and much of San Mateo County along the coast and Bayshore south to San Mateo. ▼

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Jeffrey Allen Coffman

Sept. 4, 1964 — Sept. 2, 2001

Jeffrey Allen Coffman, AKA Patsy Stone, passed away at OSHU hospital



after collapsing at his home in Portland, Oregon on Sunday, September 2nd. He was born in San Luis Obispo, California and raised in Atascadero where he graduated from Atascadero High School in 1982. He moved to San Francisco in 1983 and worked at Without Reservations restaurant on Castro Street for many years. Jeff and his partner Joe Reney moved to Portland in 1999.

Because he was only 36 years old, Jeff's death shocked his many friends. He had a prophetic belief that he would die young, but lived in the moment every day. His charm, enthusiasm, and humor are sorely missed. Jeff was one of those rare people who truly have no enemies. Jeff is survived by his mother, Kris Coffman and his sister, Anne Wilson. A service at sea on Morro Bay is planned for 9 a.m. on October 26.

Thomas K. Ludwig

Thomas K. Ludwig, 48, Butler County Community College English, drama and speech instructor, died Sep-



tember 29, 2001 in Wichita, Kansas of liver cancer. Memorial services were held on October 3 at College Hill United Methodist Church.

He earned his Bachelor's in English at St. Mary of the Plains college in Dodge City, Kansas, and his Masters from Creighton U. in Omaha in 1981.

He moved to San Francisco in 1982 and became active in several AIDS organizations and was a board member for Ayurveda Health. In 1989 he returned to Wichita and began teaching at Butler.

He was active in local theater, served on two boards and participated in 30 local productions. In 1999 he won the Mary Jane Teall Award for best actor in "Bus Stop" and last month won best supporting actor in "Our Town."

Survivors: mother, Connie; sisters, Tracy and Teresa; brother, Timothy and many friends.

Memorials go to: Dr. Donna Sweet's Patient Emergency fund c/o K.U. Medical Center, 1010 N. Kansas, Wichita 67214. His ashes are to be spread in the Pacific at a future date.

NYC terrorist attacks claim lesbian's life

by Cynthia Laird

Renee Barrett died Sunday, October 14 of injuries she received in the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center. The Reverend Pat Bumgardner of the Metropolitan Community Church-New York, issued the announcement Monday; Ms. Barrett had been a member of the church.

Ms. Barrett was an employee

of Cantor Fitzgerald, and was in Tower 1 at the time of the attacks. Though critically burned, she escaped the building prior to its collapse, and had been a patient at Cornell-Presbyterian Hospital.

Ms. Barrett is survived by her life partner, Enez Cooper, and her 18-year-old son, Eddie, who lived with them; her biological brother; and several extended family members.

"Many members and friends of

the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches from around the globe sent cards, contributed funds, and prayed for Renee, Enez, and their family," Bumgardner said in a statement. "We sincerely thank you, and ask your continued prayerful support, especially for Enez and Eddie, in the days and weeks ahead."

Condolences may be sent to Enez Cooper in care of MCC-New York, 446 W. 36th Street, New York, NY 10018. ▼

AIDS Ride

◀ page 1

"We're really excited about it," he said, adding that his organization realizes that "in order to make money, you have to spend money."

"But we believe there are reasonable costs of fundraising we need to stick to; we have the responsibility to our donors to make sure that their money is used in the best way possible."

Beyond that, it became difficult for SFAF to stay positive when describing the conflicts that the organizations had with Pallotta.

Different spokes

A major issue for both SFAF and the center were the more than dismal returns from AIDS Ride 2001; although official numbers cannot be tallied due to the large amount currently in dispute, Suárez estimates that the ride would have donated just 50 percent of its earnings to the beneficiaries.

"That's good in their view, but not good in our view," he said, noting that Pallotta's AIDS Ride in 2000 took just 35.5 percent for costs, returning 65 percent to organizations. But beyond monetary concerns was the general spirit of the event, a tone that increasingly conflicted with what the community organizations wished to promote.

What angered Suárez most recently, he said, was an appearance in August by Pallotta President Steve Bennett on Minnesota Public Radio "where he basically said the organizations need the money so much that they'll take whatever we give them."

"To us, that view is not acceptable," said Suárez. "It's their prerogative to pursue their business interests, but it's our prerogative to go a separate way."

In the radio show's actual transcript, Bennett acknowledged that much of the money raised by Pal-

lotta events feeds six-figure salaries and other costs not associated with AIDS and cancer services, "To our beneficiaries, push comes to shove, and they're going to say, 'We don't care what the return is, get us that money, we need it so bad!'"

Bennett did not return phone calls from the Bay Area Reporter seeking comment.

Additionally, said Suárez, the Pallotta model of individual growth was not resonating with many of the riders. Pallotta

new beneficiaries as well as try new and previous riders.

"Our goal is to get back to the spirit of what makes California AIDS Ride great," read a statement on the Pallotta Web site that acknowledged SFAF's and the center's departure. "Next year, California AIDS Ride 9 will benefit more communities than ever before. Your participation is what makes this all happen. And your commitment - the heart and soul of the AIDS Ride - is just as crucial as ever."

Beyond monetary concerns was the general spirit of the event, a tone that increasingly conflicted with what the community organizations wished to promote.

fundraisers - dubbed "Human Potential Events" - cleverly use the slogan "Impossible" to attract well-intentioned riders and walkers who wish to push their own limits. But some participants felt that the ride had lost its focus on community, and, ultimately, HIV/AIDS.

"It became increasingly clear that the ride was not about AIDS or community, it was about individual growth and personal achievement. That's fine but that's not what we're interested in. The vast majority of our riders are not doing it for themselves; they're doing it for the community and for loved ones lost to and living with HIV/AIDS," said Suárez.

Although the contract between SFAF, the center, and Pallotta allowed the organizations to retain their pledge lists and rider forms, the official name, "California AIDS Ride," still belongs to Pallotta, and the company has apparently decided to go ahead with its annual event, although it must recruit

The site then gives instructions on how to request original registration fees back from SFAF and the L.A. Center, so that those fees may instead go to the Pallotta event.

But the real kicker, according to Suárez, came during a conference call at the beginning of the month. When it became apparent that negotiations would not work out, Pallotta's Bennett "threatened that they would put all their resources toward trying to shut down our event," said Suárez.

"I was astounded that they would actively work against the community they claim to care about. His threat just further underlines that we are doing the right thing." ▼

Information on the organizations' new event can be found at www.aidslifecycle.org. A toll-free phone number at 1-866-BIKE4AIDS will be up and running soon.



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Big apples

by Jim Provenzano

On October 10, a diminutive photographer from the *San Jose Mercury News* wandered around the stairwell of my sister-in-law's apartment to capture the sort of "Holocaust & Gardens" image you can find on page 84 of the current issue of *Rolling Stone*. That photo shows the dust-coated living room of her neighbor, complete with asbestos-garnished tea set, National Guardsman not included.

Other media clips from New York papers offered an array of war and sports-related shrapnel.

I hauled them into my luggage, expecting to have them rifled through by airport security, especially after the woman in front of me had to remove her boots. It probably had more to do

with the security guy's perverted heterosexual predilections than any metal detectors.

But to my dismay, only Arabs and minorities had their luggage searched. One African American man had to take out his trumpet and prove that it worked. He tooted the opening riff of "New York, New York."

The Federal Aviation Administration, always a stalwart 10 years behind every other civilized country on the planet, has now boldly banned carry-on sporting goods, including baseball bats, pool cues, golf clubs, hockey sticks, and ski poles.

The ban on nail clippers, the only weapon of choice among wrestlers, seems to be over.

It's hard to support the night-cam bombings when the facts are doubleplusungood disinformation. It's really hard to return to



Sports
Complex



Metropolust: Giant Sehorn, Yankee Knoblauch, Ranger Lindros

the San Francisco hippie-dippy anti-war dance when your family's a target.

I was in a college production of *Hair*, awright? I've probably been arrested at more protests than you've been to. Call me a coward. Call me a war-monger. Let **Bill Maher** call me a cowardly war-monger. Whatever.

Triath-hole

The *New York Post* offered "KABULSEYE! TALL-BAM!" and other zany headline puns to perk up Manhattanites' attitudes. It also reports that while **Osama** may hate the American Imperialists, he loves our watches.

The hypocritical Hitler wannabe dons the sporty Timex Ironman Triathlon model, to be exact, according to the FBI. Well, as exact as any bomb over Afghanistan, or as exact as the FBI is/was. Does Osie the Awful plan on swimming, running, and cycling his way to escape, now that Afghanistan is ready to roll over? **Mulder?** **Clarice?** Where are you when we're in trouble?

Giant package

Hunky underwear model and New York Giants cornerback **Jason Sehorn** was informed about the first Afghan bombings at halftime of an October 7 football game. It would have upset his form, if his opponents weren't the lousy Washington team named after an anti-Native American slur. Sehorn made two interceptions, one resulting in a touchdown. Said Giants coach **Jim Fassel**, "He's got a flair for the dramatic."

Stadium managers considered announcing the raids, but figured most fans with multimedia earplugs and cell phones had figured it out.

Almost 60 years ago to the day (minus three months, and all those electronics), on December 7, on the same Polo Grounds, war was announced, in a way. In 1941, the Brooklyn Dodgers football team (yep, there was also a Dodgers football team) was about to continue its game, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Stadium announcers discreetly requested all servicemen to "report for duty."

They promptly went off to sea, and those that weren't killed or married returned to San Francisco and created gay culture.

See, good comes from bad, like flowers from shit—fertilizer.

Houston, we have a problem

On October 11, the *Houston Chronicle* ran a *San Jose Mercury News* (them again!) story about SF Fog rugby player **Mark Bingham**, one of the heroic passengers who brought down hijacked United Flight 93 on September 11. Once again, Bingham was posthumously "inned."

The *Houston Press* was among the media that noticed the deliberate censorship:

"Snipped from the *Houston Chronicle*'s version of the story two paragraphs with passing references to the fact that Bingham was openly gay," said the *Press*.

Somewhere in a **Liz Smith** or **Cindy Adams** column it says that the New York Rangers' utterly studly **Eric Lindros** has donated one of his hockey jerseys, as have other athletes, in an auction somewhere for some worthy September 11 cause that hopefully will get the money to the right people.

The Rangers just started their new season. Let's hope Eric has a year free of concussions or injuries to that gorgeous mug.

If you want to give to GLBT relief efforts, the New York-based Stonewall Community Foundation has established the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Disaster Relief Fund to help those GLBT individuals directly impacted by the World Trade Center disaster.

Checks should be made payable to Stonewall Community Foundation, earmarked for "Disaster Relief." Donations should be sent to: Stonewall Community Foundation, 119 West 24th Street, New York, NY 10011. Info: e-mail at robinj@stonewallfoundation.org or call (212) 367-1155.

Yankeekeeper

Bayside, the Oakland A's second playoff loss against the New York Yankees, which ended with a solid trouncing after the Yanks lost the first two games in the Bronx, was an inspiration for this Big Apple muncher.

The Yankees and A's traveled to the Bay Area on the same day I did, but apparently not on the same cheap airline. Oh well, I did get to meet a hunky fireman who'd been to New York to pay tribute to a friend. He's also in the current *Rolling Stone*.

Oakland's team had to travel east again to finish the competition on Monday, where they lost to the defending World Series champions, 5-3.

What a pleasure to see hunks **Derek Jeter**, **Tino Martinez**, and the very special **Chuck Knoblauch**, who was the leadoff hitter for the last three World Series, defeat the almost equally talented A's.

Aside from having probably the best buzz cut in the American League, Knoblauch is the fifth leading base stealer in his league.

Now if I could have figured where they hang out between games when they're in town, I'd let a guy like Chuck steal my heart, too.

And of course, it is your patriotic duty to "attend sporting events." So sayeth Attorney General **John Ashcroft**, who attended a Navy-Air Force football game. Easy to be comfy when you're surrounded by cadets. Since Ashcroft's faith considers dancing to be a sin, he caught himself in a group wave, and promptly arrested himself.

Urbaniacs

And before you think I'm on Gotham overload, here's a few sobering tidbits. New York, irreparably changed? Fugetaboutit.

• Over 400 victims from the 1993 World Trade Center bombing are still waiting for a settlement from a lawsuit against the Port Authority, which has been stalled in court by their covering up evidence.

• A Brooklyn police officer, on her way home from a funeral for a WTC-fallen fellow cop, ended up dragged alongside a car in a high-speed chase with a suspected murderer who was eventually

next page ►

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Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at UCSF

The *Houston Press* was among the media that noticed the deliberate censorship:

"Snipped from the *Houston Chronicle*'s version of the story two paragraphs with passing references to the fact that Bingham was openly gay," said the *Press*.

Jock strip

Some athletes continue to inspire in these times. The Chicago Bears, instead of making millions by selling their stadium to a conglomerate, have decided to keep it impoverished but nobly still named Soldier Field, an apt tribute.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Navy hate bomb

◀ page 1

are promoting their own brand of prejudice."

The British, and in fact all of the NATO allies except Turkey, allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military.

"The message equates gays with the 'enemy,' it places gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members — who are serving as honorably as anyone else at this time — at risk, and dishonors them," said Richard Haymes, executive director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project.

Some had other concerns. "Yes, the graffiti in question is deplorable," said New York activist Bill Dobbs. "But then there is the slight matter of the bomb itself" when it explodes. He argued that Haymes's critique "sends the message that the bombs and the dropping of same is fine — as long as there is no bad graffiti on them."

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation chastised the Associated Press for pulling the photo. "This image should be ex-

plained and discussed, not hidden from view," said Executive Director Joan M. Garry. "By pulling the photo rather than exploring its content and context, the AP sends the message that anti-gay bias should be swept under the rug, not exposed and confronted." The organization had several exchanges with AP prior to issuing its statement.

Garry called on the AP to report on the issue, even though that would involve AP staffers and editors. "If a picture's worth a thousand words, the one word in this picture is certainly worth a story," she said.

One of the great ironies of this episode is that the first mythic American naval hero, Stephen Decatur, commanded the original USS Enterprise in 1804 in defeating the Barbary pirates of Tripoli. He was promoted to captain at the age of 25, then the highest rank in the Navy, and remains the youngest person ever to achieve that rank. The late Randy Shilts briefly recounted the substantial evidence of Decatur being gay, or at least bisexual, in his book *Conduct Unbecoming*. ▼

Nevertheless, today is a substantial leap forward, which is something to celebrate."

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, was equally pleased. "We are elated," she said. "While we still have a long way to go on the road to full equality, AB25 forever changes the landscape for lesbian and gay couples in California. We applaud the courage and tenacity of Assembly member Carole Migen in shepherding the bill through the Legislature and the leadership and sense of justice evidenced by Governor Davis in signing the bill."

Once enacted, the bill will change current law to allow opposite-sex couples to register as domestic partners if one or both of the partners are over the age of 62. Currently, both partners have to be at least 62 years old. The law becomes effective January 1, 2002. ▼

suit, Michael Cardoza, told reporters that he considered Los Angeles the "lesser of the choices."

"L.A. doesn't have a stellar track record when it comes to criminal cases," he said.

Cardoza noted that Smith, who has attended many of the pretrial hearings, may be prohibited from observing the trial because she is a witness. The trial is expected to take six to eight weeks. Cardoza said that even if Smith is allowed to observe the trial, her work obligations may prevent her from being there every day.

The trial is scheduled to start January 22.

No trial date has been set yet for the civil wrongful death suit. ▼

DP benefits bill

◀ page 1

and to continue health coverage for surviving domestic partners of retired government workers.

"California is leading the country in instituting protections for gay and lesbian couples without a court mandate. In Hawaii and Vermont, both legislatures were compelled by their state courts to extend equal benefits to same-sex couples," said Jean Harris, executive director of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality. "CAPE applauds California's state lawmakers and Governor Gray Davis for addressing this important issue plainly and openly. There are still thousands of rights denied to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Californians, and CAPE is tackling these issues with state lawmakers continuously."

Dog mauling

◀ page 4

Paul Schneider as well as Schneider's cellmate Dale Bretches. The men have said that they consider themselves to be the owners of the dogs involved in the attack and both are expected to be witnesses in the trial.

Outside court, San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan told reporters that although he preferred San Diego, he was happy with Los Angeles.

"We cold have taken any of the three counties and been happy with it," said Hallinan.

Smith's attorney in the civil

vanity press corps was denied entry past the barricades, he threw a loud hissy fit.

Go back home and grow some cheese, Jesse. The velvet rope to the Dead Zone is closed.

Speaking of fake wrestling and faker gestures, the Times Square WWF store abruptly changed its billboard, and the entire fake wrestling corporation has now removed the "War" and "Armageddon" titles from their regular orgy of testosterone closet-case violence.

How nice for you. How nice for everyone.

Lit bit hit

I'll be reading (something fictional and not at all about sports)

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS**LEGAL NOTICES**

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Solicitation of Interest #207



Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDS) announces its intent to solicit interest from individuals or collaboratives interested in administering a wage augmentation program for licensed family child care providers under the Wages+ Child Care Program.

The contract period will run from 12/01/01 to 6/30/03 for an amount of \$1 million or more, to be determined on number of providers served.

An SOI document may be picked up at SFDS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, Monday, October 15, 2001. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Tuesday, October 30, 2001, from 1:00-3:00 PM at 170 Otis Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, San Francisco, CA. Attendance is Mandatory. For further information, call Michele Rutherford, at (415) 558-2347, or Susan Schorr, Contract Manager, at (415) 557-5585.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 024600

In the Matter of the Application of Elise Carol Wade For Change of Name. The application of Elise Carol Wade for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Elise Carol Wade has filed an application proposing that her/his name be changed to Eli Carroll Wade. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of November at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 18, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 024601

In the Matter of the Application of Sara Lynn Rittenhouse For Change of Name. The application of Sara Lynn Rittenhouse for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sara Lynn Rittenhouse has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sara St. Martin Lynn. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of November at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 18, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251988

The following person(s) are doing business as Jim Misner Light Designs, 2988 Washington Street, San Francisco, CA 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed James Misner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/02/01.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251989

The following person(s) are doing business as Love Budz, 24 Gladys Street, San Francisco, CA 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Von Erb. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/02/01.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251990

The following person(s) are doing business as &B&B Vending, 57 Taylor Street, #412, San Francisco, CA 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robert W. McCrady. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/02/01.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251991

The following person(s) are doing business as Blue Star Ink, 1271 South Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by co-partners signed Margaret Crim and Raven A. Voss. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/02/01.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251992

The following person(s) are doing business as Canney Wine Cellar, 2801 Leavenworth Street, San Francisco, CA 94133. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Charles M. Isola, Director of Finance. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 12, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/12/01.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251993

The following person(s) are doing business as Newworld Communications Inc., 3221 20th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Charles M. Isola, Director of Finance. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 09/28/01.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251994

The following person(s) are doing business as Mission Seaparks, 76 Page Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Donald B. Martin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 28, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 09/28/01.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251995

The following person(s) are doing business as Ardeblichi, Kamran and Ardeblichi, Jahnigir. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 12, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/12/01.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251996

The following person(s) are doing business as MSR Communications, 1847 Union Street, San Francisco, CA 94123. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed MSR.Comm, LLC (California). The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/01/01.

OCT 4, 11, 18, 25, 2001**STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251965**

The following person(s) are doing business as MSR Communications, 1847 Union Street, San Francisco, CA 94123. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed MSR.Comm, LLC (California). The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/01/01.

OCT 4, 11, 18, 25, 2001**STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251824**

The following person(s) are doing business as Baby Ruth's, 564 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Phyllis Schrobendorff, Courtney Schrobendorff & Niquay Lay. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 9/24/2001.

OCT 4, 11, 18, 25, 2001**STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251818**

The following person(s) are doing business as Peruvia Gourdes, 3566 17th Street #2, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Raul G. Calderon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 9/24/2001.

OCT 4, 11, 18, 25, 2001**STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251789**

The following person(s) are doing business as Heads Up Hair Care, 1233 Castro Street San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mr. Lynn T. Adams. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 9/21/2001.

OCT 4, 11, 18, 25, 2001**STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251789**

The following person(s) are doing business as Ascanius Art And Antiques, 244 Neo Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wayne David Hand. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 20, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 09/20/2001.

OCT 27, OCT. 4, 11, 18, 2001**STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251748**

The following person(s) are doing business as Ascanius Art And Antiques, 244 Neo Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wayne David Hand. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 20, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 09/20/2001.

OCT 27, OCT. 4, 11, 18, 2001**STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251606**

The following person(s) are doing business as Cafe Muse, 788 8th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Xiao, Zhao Yu and Xiao, Yong Quan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 10, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 09/13/2001.

OCT 27, OCT. 4, 11, 18, 2001**STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251607**

The following person(s) are doing business as Love Budz, 24 Gladys Street, San Francisco, CA 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yang, Xiong J and Zhang John. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 2, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/02/2001.

OCT 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001**STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251887**

The following person(s) are doing business as Games Etc, 1039 Clement Street, San Francisco, CA 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed David N. Yuen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 2, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/02/2001.

OCT 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001**STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251958**

The following person(s) are doing business as Blue Star Ink, 1271 South Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by co-partners signed Margaret Crim and Raven A. Voss. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/01/01.

OCT 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001**STATEMENT FILE NO. 0251959**

The following person(s) are doing business as Newworld Communications Inc., 3221 20th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Charles M. Isola, Director of Finance. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 09/28/2001.

OCT 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001**STATEMENT FILE NO. 0252220**

The following person(s) are doing business as Canney Wine Cellar, 2801 Leavenworth Street, San Francisco, CA 94133. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Ardeblichi, Kamran and Ardeblichi, Jahnigir. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 12, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/12/2001.

OCT 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 324339

In the Matter of the Application of Rima Missakian For Change of Name. The application was filed by Rima Missakian for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Rima Missakian has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Rima Hippisheim Missakian. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 5th day of November at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 18, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252060
The following person(s) are doing business as Art Reading Co. 820 Howard Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Liu Rong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 4, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/04/2001.

OCT. 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 325123

In the Matter of the Application of Andrew Thomas Palmer For Change of Name. The application was Andrew Thomas Palmer for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Andrew Thomas Palmer has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Andrew Zazu Thomas Palmer. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 3rd day of December at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 3246599

In the Matter of the Application of Sean G. Ogilvie for Emily Rose Hodson (minor) for change of Name. The application of Sean G. Ogilvie for Emily Rose Hodson (minor) for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sean G. Ogilvie (father) for Emily Rose Hodson (minor) has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Emily Rose Ogilvie-Hodson. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of November at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 325149

In the Matter of the Application of John Z.L. Huang for Byron M.X. Chang (minor) for change of Name. The application of John Z.L. Huang for Byron M.X. Chang (minor) for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that John Z.L. Huang for Byron M.X. Chang (minor) has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Byron M.X. Huang. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of December at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 11, 18, 25, NOV. 1, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252120

The following person(s) are doing business as California Dental 6100 California Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Inessa Grinberg. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca on 10/09/2001.

OCT. 18, 25, NOV. 1, 8, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251871

The following person(s) are doing business as Write Opportunity, 228 Day Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Karen D. Opp. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca on 09/26/2001.

OCT. 18, 25, NOV. 1, 8, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252214

The following person(s) are doing business as Bay Leather, 2701 Taylor Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joseph Allen Dowler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca on 10/09/2001.

OCT. 18, 25, NOV. 1, 8, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252214

The following person(s) are doing business as Bay Leather, 2701 Taylor Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yoo, Woong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca on 10/12/2001.

OCT. 18, 25, NOV. 1, 8, 2001

JOB OFFERED

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Manager of Overage and Manager of Underage Services two positions each to provide leadership and operational management of respective programs including Case Management. Development and implementation of program services, staff supervision, grant and budget management, daily needs oversight. MA or MSW required. Four years of staff supervision. \$45 - \$52 DOE.

Avenues to Independence Coordinator to oversee the Independent Living Program for high-functioning 18 & 23 year old runaway youth. Grant, budget, and finance management. Provide leadership and vision for program and staff. MSW preferred. \$42 - \$45 DOE.

Employment Development Coordinator to assist homeless and runaway youth prepare for employment and independent living by identifying sources of employment and positions appropriate to clients' skills, aptitudes and interests. MA preferred. \$40 - \$42 DOE.

Senior Case Manager to provide services to high-risk youth who have been abused, are at risk for, or have HIV, and/or are involved in substance abuse. Intake and assessment, counseling, resource brokerage, follow-up and aftercare as needed. Master's in Counseling, Psychology, Social Work. \$40 - \$43 K DOE.

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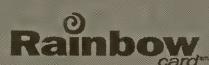
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Zany in ZinZanni
Folk legend Joan Baez plays SF dinner theatre.
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'Meister'piece theatre
SF Opera tackles Wagner's 5-hr.-plus 'Meistersinger.'

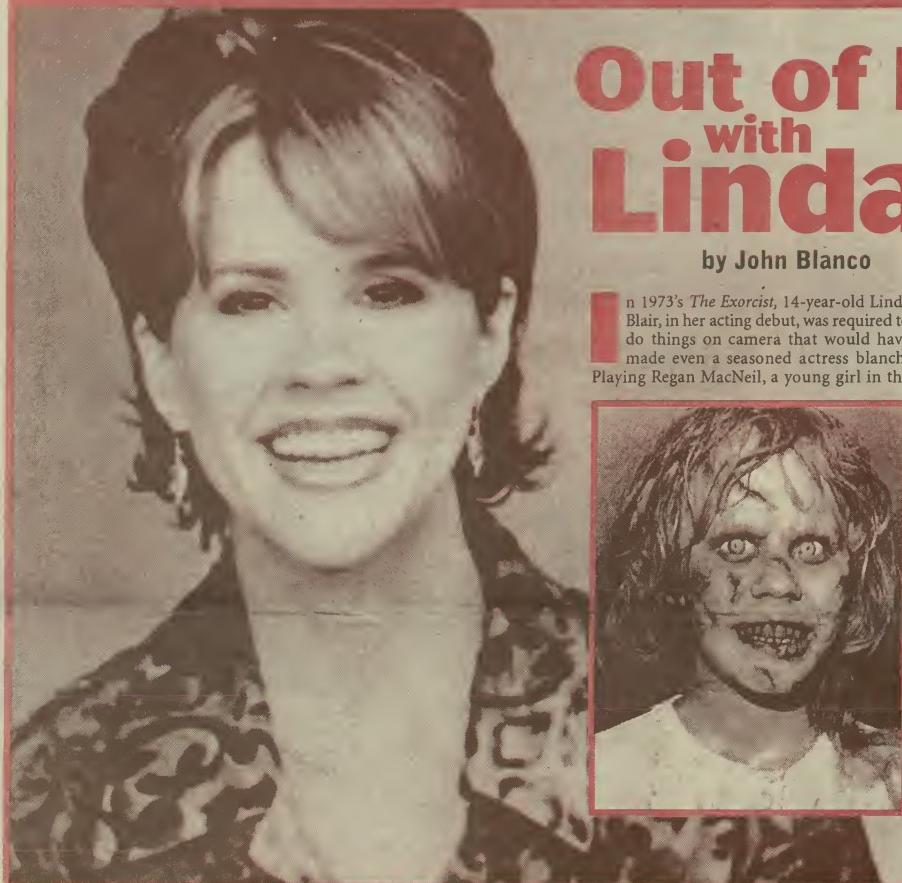
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 31 • No. 42 • 18 October 2001

'The Exorcist' star to appear live at the Castro Theatre



Out of body with Linda Blair

by John Blanco

In 1973's *The Exorcist*, 14-year-old Linda Blair, in her acting debut, was required to do things on camera that would have made even a seasoned actress blanch. Playing Regan MacNeil, a young girl in the

throes of demonic possession, Blair spews pea soup (the faux vomit cooked up by the prop dept.), sucker-punches a priest, and lets loose with every filthy word in the book (voiced memorably by Mercedes McCambridge, in the same bulldagger growl she used in *Touch of Evil*). In the film's most notorious scene, she turns a crucifix into a makeshift dildo, ramming it repeatedly between her legs before thrusting her mother's head into her bloody crotch and demanding that she "Eat it!"

In a recent interview, I asked Blair, who will be appearing at a screening of *The Exorcist* at the Castro Theatre on October 19, how she could have possibly prepared herself to play such horrific scenes. "Basically, I tried to have an out-of-body experience," laughed the 42-year-old Blair by telephone from the kitchen of her LA home. More seriously she added, "I was not prepared for those scenes. No one could've prepared a kid for them. Probably the best way to cope is not to be present emotionally, which is what I tried to do."

Blair said director William Friedkin, who has stated that he came to regard the young actress as a "surrogate daughter" during filming, did his best to ease her anxieties. After shooting an especially unsettling scene, for example,

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Choreographer Margaret Jenkins works well with others

Putting it together

by Michael McDonagh

Theater is still an intensely collaborative art form, and dance, being a nonverbal one, can go places words can't. Famed San Francisco choreographer Margaret Jenkins is clearly interested in entering uncharted territory in her new piece *May I Now* (*18 Questions in the Space of an Answer*), and she has assembled a strong team to get there. Her nine gifted performers are at the heart of this work, premiering Friday at Theater Artaud. "Part of the collaborative adventure," Jenkins says, "is that my dancers really do generate all the movement. They do it as a response to things we're talking about and directives I give them, and they also help integrate everything into an overall structure."

Sitting calmly at a desk under a basketball hoop in the gym at the UC Berkeley Extension off San Francisco's Market Street, Jenkins is a tall, formidably intelligent woman with long, dramatic hair, and she speaks with measured passion. The structure of *May I Now* is open and subject to change, she says. "[Composer] Alvin Curran generated about 10 or 12 different musical ideas for this piece, and we've been working very intensely with how to make these intersect, come up against each other, and interface the dance itself, and his responses are always incredibly smart and informed. He takes you somewhere you didn't think you were going, which is exactly

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Margaret Jenkins Dance Company premieres *May I Now* (*18 Questions in the Space of an Answer*) at Theater Artaud.



Ken Probst

OUT THERE

by Roberto Friedman
and Malcolm Powder

From now on, we're wearing latex gloves on our fingers and a rubber on our nose when we go through our stacks and stacks of mail, so don't try sending Out There any white, powdery substances through the postal service. Save it for when we bump into you in the club john, okay?

This is OT, at our desk during mail call: "Hmmm, is this letter really from publicist dynamo Karen Larsen, or is it from a cunning terrorist pretending to be publicist dynamo Karen Larsen?"

Now that anthrax has been found in the mail by the personal assistant to anchor **Tom Brokaw** at NBC, at a Microsoft office in Reno, in **Sen. Tom Daschle's** office, and at the tabloid conglomerate American Media Inc. in Florida, maybe people who think it's a great idea to sprinkle their press kits with **festive holiday tinsel** or pretty autumn leaves can find other arts-and-crafts projects to keep their little fingers busy!



Out There

And while we're reining in our worst impulses, how about a moratorium on Hallowe'en entertainments that feature the words *Massacre* or *Death Trip* in their title? Are we really so jaded that we can still enjoy *faux mass death*?

The press kit for the **Robert Redford/James Gandolfini** vehicle *The Last Castle* comes not with a lapful of glitter or the merry promise of slaughter, but with this picture of the Stars and Stripes flying upside-down: rather a p.r. boo-boo in these hot-blooded, flag-waving times. An insert from DreamWorks notes that the teaser campaign art

was printed before 9/11. "We apologize for any concern this may cause," the insert grovels, perhaps trying to pre-empt a visit from the new Thought Police.

The movie's plot: court-martialed Redford is sentenced to do hard time in the maximum-security military prison called The Castle, which is ruled with an iron fist by hard-assed warden Gandolfini — and we always thought **Tony Soprano** was such a pussycat! The film also features the yummy and talented actor **Mark Ruffalo** and the aptly-named



DreamWorks

Politically incorrect press kit.

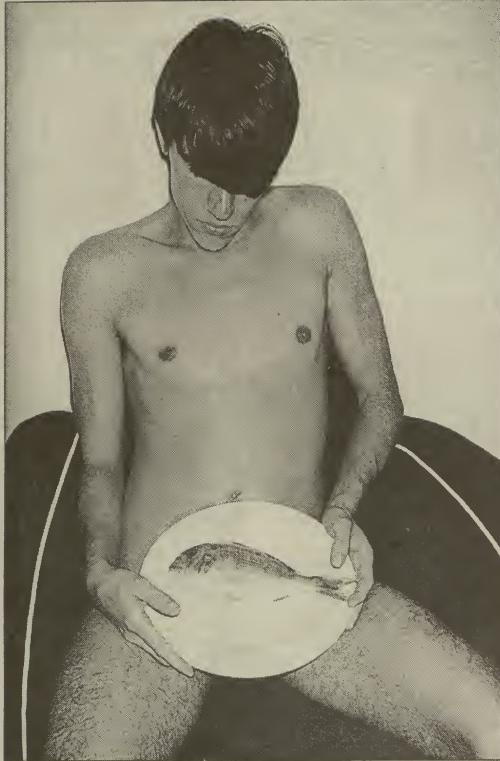
supporting player **Frank Military**. Next time we're in the mood for a prison riot, we'll keep this flick in mind.

In other tragic news, twin press whores **Sophie and Portia Copplethwaite-Jones** have announced their retirement from the pursuit of publicity. "After Sept. 11, the whole world changed," Portia announced in a press statement, "including Sophie's bra size. It went up."

Chop and fiddle

Further adventures in the queer press: tabloid glossy *QS* recently made passing mention of "world-renowned violinist **Yo-Yo Ma**." It seems *QS* managing editor **Philip Mayard**, the article's author, thinks a cello is just a really big violin.

But stop the presses — photo-



Walter Pfeiffer

Boy with sole: from Welcome Aboard! Photographs 1980-2000

tographer **Bruce Weber** says he's in love with a young straight boy — *quel surprise!* Weber's new movie *Chop Suey* is now catching its wave of pre-release publicity, including an interview by staffer **Aaron Gell** in the current issue of *city rag* *W*.

Given his famous images of towel-snapping, athletic young men, perhaps it's not surprising that Weber himself felt somewhat alienated from his peers as a teenager. "I grew up in this really macho town where everybody played football," he recalls. "And I kind of wished I could play, but I couldn't, so I kind of made up a very large world for myself with a lot of imagination and a lot of fantasy."

Asked how he selected high-school wrestler **Pete Johnson**, then just 15, to be his muse for the

book and movie, Weber says, "He just reminded me of these illustrations in the books that I had as a kid, about boys on adventures. Peter represents to me a lot of the kids that maybe I wanted to be friends with when I was a kid."

"You know, people say to me, 'Aren't people going to think that you're in love with this guy?' And I say, 'Well, I couldn't have made a movie about him if I weren't.' So that's all I have to say about that."

World of boys

Swiss photographer **Walter Pfeiffer**, who was in, then was out, and is now in again, is amply celebrated by the coffee-table volume *Welcome Aboard! Photographs 1980-2000* (Edition Patrick Frey). Pfeiffer documents a glamorous, decadent, Eurotrash world, bountiful with male beauty on display. His camera also visits Ascot, country houses, and some scenic landscapes, but these seem like mere background behind the boys' highlights.

Boys and girls of whatever age, take note: the category of books for young adults with gay issues is suddenly burgeoning, and we say it's a bully good thing. In **Alex Sanchez's** debut novel *Rainbow Boys*, just out from Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, three high school boys struggle with their sexual identity. Out Nelson, shy Kyle, and Jason the jock-with-a-secret are startled to run into each other at a Rainbow Youth meeting. We follow the three guys on their personal odysseys through crushes, friendships, and getting a grip. "If Jason ever did make it with another guy — not that he ever would, he assured himself — but if he did, it would be with someone normal, like Kyle."

Sanchez reads and signs books tonight, Thurs., Oct. 18, 7 p.m. at A Different Light Bookstore in the Castro.

In a related release, **James Howe's** *The Misfits* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers) are Skeekie, Addie, Joe and Bobby, the kind of kids who get called names in school. They hang together and

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Tammy Faye John Waters



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THEATRE

Goodbye to all that

Steve Schalchlin on 'The Last Session'

by Richard Dodds

Steve Schalchlin was dying when he began work on *The Last Session*. "This was the winter of 1995, and I had one wish," he said. "I wanted to live long enough to see the show at least one time on a stage."

Schalchlin got his wish and then some. *The Last Session* has been staged in 10 cities, including New York, Los Angeles, and even Omaha, and San Francisco will soon join the list. The musical, with songs by Schalchlin and inspired by his experiences, opens Oct. 27 at the New Conservatory Theatre Center.

The show takes place in a recording studio where singer-songwriter Gideon Wells, tired of fighting the AIDS virus, is making a final album for his life partner. It is a musical suicide note. But his plans take an unexpected turn with the arrival of an aspiring singer whose fundamentalist Christian beliefs are rocked when he discovers that Gideon, his idol, is gay.

"It's a very difficult play to describe," said Schalchlin, who grew up in a conservative Baptist family. "To try to describe the plot sounds like a night in hell. But it's really very gentle and humorous. We're very respectful of the audience to not drag them into a place where they don't want to go."

While Schalchlin says he never considered suicide when he was at his lowest point with AIDS, he did begin writing songs at the urging of his partner, writer Jim Brochu, as a way of motivating him out of his malaise. Only later did Schalchlin and Brochu realize that these very personal songs could become the basis of a musical.

"At heart, Jimmy is a Neil Simon-type comedy writer, so we melded this serious subject matter with broad musical-comedy type characters and came up with this strange little hybrid of a show," Schalchlin said. "We've broken every rule three times over, but it really works with audiences."

Schalchlin and Brochu, together for 16 years, met on a cruise ship. "I was a lounge act and Jimmy was a passenger," he said. "I started playing the song 'One More Kiss' from *Follies*, and he was sitting in the back mouthing the words. The next thing you know we were married."

Dealing with AIDS and its complications has put strains on

Shirley Sandelwood and Michelle Starrs in *The Last Session*.

their relationship. "When we were in New York doing the show, I became diabetic and some of the medications were really screwing with my head," Schalchlin said. "I became an impossible person to be around, and we separated for a while because it was driving him nuts. But the divorce didn't work, and I'm happy to say that since we've gotten back together, it's been a very beautiful ride."

The success of *The Last Session* across the country has also given Schalchlin a solo concert career performing the songs from the musical and talking about the events of his life. "I sing at churches and universities, and I do concerts at medical schools to help teach about compassionate care," he said.

The title of Schalchlin's concert show is *Living in the Bonus Round* because, he said, "in the bonus round, time speeds up, and the prizes are better." *Living in the Bonus Round* is also the name of Schalchlin's online diary (www.bonusround.com) that began as a goodbye letter and has evolved into an elaborate forum for news, discussions, and Schalchlin's ongoing adventures at living.

"This is the happiest time of my life," Schalchlin said. "We've seen people's lives changed by the play. And because I've created an online community, I'm able to stay in constant contact with those people. I've got hundreds of people in my life, I've got a play

that's gotten wonderful awards, and I get to sing and pretend to be Elton John. I don't quite know how it could be any better."

The Last Session will run through Dec. 9. Call 861-8972 for more information.

'Nite' stand

Do you remember Jody, Brian Keith's impossibly cute son on *Family Affair*? Well, actor Johnny Whitaker, all grown up, is now starring in a talk-show spoof in San Francisco.

Nighty Nite San Francisco is the creation of former *Chronicle* reporter Rider McDowell, who reports that Kevin Costner was in the audience during the first weekend of the run. McDowell does not report whether Costner entered to win a "Dream Date with Johnny Whitaker," which is being offered on the show's website (www.nightlynite.com).

Nighty Nite is scheduled to run through December at the Shelton Theatre, where, each night, the Bob Hope Lifetime Achievement Award is given out to some very special member of the "studio" audience. Call (800) 858-0980 for tickets.

Nip and Tuck

The Tuck 'n' Roll Players are back with a show made up of past, present, and future songs from the tranny-loving group. Billed as "a musical panorama," *Exospective* will begin a three-performance run on Oct. 18 at the Z Space Studio.

Peter Fogel and Kelly Kittell's songs from *Cyberotical!* and *Club*

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Big, brawny, but a bore

SF Opera's 'Die Meistersinger' at the War Memorial

by Stephanie von Buchau

Donald Runnicles, the San Francisco Opera's testosterone-fueled music director, likes his opera big and brawny. That makes him an ideal conductor for the huge War Memorial Opera House and for big, brawny composers like Richard Wagner. Runnicles has delivered an exciting *Tannhäuser*, and thrilling *Ring* cycles and *Parsifal* (though both were short on spirituality). His *Tristan und Isolde*, alas, is sexless, and his *Meistersinger* altogether too big and brawny for a comedy.

As the five-hour-plus evening lumbered along last Wednesday — the last act clocked in on my Indigo at two hours and seven minutes, way too long to be confined to those torture-chamber seats — we heard lots of noise and some powerful music-making, but virtually no romance, tenderness or humor. Unfortunately, an uncut *Die Meistersinger* — as SFO proudly bragged, this was “for the first time” — cannot survive without humor or gentleness. Or at least the sensitive listener can’t survive; by the end of the second act, the orchestra seats were only half full.

It’s rather ironic, too, that Runnicles, whose musicology is nothing if not “practical” (he plays hash with Verdi and Mozart, and excuses it blithely as “what works”) chose to play all of Wagner’s lengthy, talky piece when it was quite patently *not* working. The production is so cheap and visually unstimulating, the costumes so ugly in color and cut and so unflattering to the singers — anybody who makes the adorable Janice Watson look like Miss Stewardess of 1951 should be fired on the spot — and the stage direction so stolid, corny and harmful to the chorus that we needed every bit of help from the musicians to make the thing fly.



James Morris as Hans Sachs, and Robert Dean Smith as W. von Stolzing

The orchestra was having a bad night. The first eight minutes of the overture were simply an unholy mess that straightened itself out as it imperceptibly melded into the sung chorale. (With Eva and Magdalena standing in the middle of the nave — what a very odd congregation rules this Nürnberg.) Accompaniments were properly paced but often too loud, causing both David (Michael Schade) and Walther (Robert Dean Smith) to oversing in the first act. Patrons upstairs told me they had trouble hearing all the singers at various times as they were covered by the orchestra. Downstairs, Watson virtually disappeared in the ensembles, including the crucial quintet where, on the left side at least, Schade’s David appeared to be the leading character. This serious imbalance was possibly caused by the skimpy settings, with no backing to support the singers.

Fugue state

The horns bobbed their intro to the “Flieder-monolog,” and the entire accompaniment was too

loud, missing the fragrant, wafting quality that sets up the dreamlike quality of the second act. (Where is Sir Charles Mackerras when we need him?) Hans-Peter Lehmann’s staging of the second act finale was so inept that the usually sharp chorus made hash of the fugue. This might not have mattered so much if James Morris, singing Hans Sachs for the first time, had either sounded better or had a more suitable personality for the lovable cobbler.

I know many BAR readers find Morris sexy, but I felt no such pull in a role that demands mature sex appeal. My first Sachs was 62-year-old Paul Schoeffler, and I would have married him on the spot. Later, Norman Bailey, Tom Stewart and Theo Adam displayed the ideal combination of fatherly wisdom and sex appeal, so that there was real tension when Eva teased Sachs about getting married again. Both vocally and physically, Morris projected such a cranky, bitter quality that he made me wish — especially since René Pape’s Pogner was so warmly, gorgeously sung — that Pape were

the Sachs and Morris the Beckmesser, a role he was born to play.

You’d love a Beckmesser whose voice sounded like a buzz-saw cutting barbed wire. As it was, Thomas Allen — possibly the best-looking man on stage — was the Beckmesser. Unfortunately, he chose a by-the-numbers characterization of the crabby clerk — weird black costume, scrawny legs, bumbling, stumbling, and not funny. Not plausible as a suit or for Eva, and not even touching at the end, when he is exposed.

As for the lovers, Watson’s Eva was simply not audible some of the time, and when you could hear her in the first two acts, she sounded pinched and wan. By Act III, she’d regained some of the sheen and sheer feminine appeal that I’ve so admired here in the past, but at no time did she come emotionally near San Francisco’s best Evchens — Lisa Della Casa, Pilar Lorengar, Karita Mattila.

Smith likewise seemed smaller of voice and emotional stature than Jess Thomas, James King or Ben Heppner. He’s starred at Bayreuth, which is half the size of the War Memorial, and where the orchestra and conductor are buried in a covered pit. As so often before, stars of Bayreuth prove inadequate in the vast reaches of the War Memorial. (Anybody remember Spas Wenckoff? I thought not.) Smith had stamina, and did some of his best singing in the “Prize Song,” but I found him rather gauche, without the required swagger or glamour. Like everything except Runnicles’ oversized conducting, this performance screamed “Church Basement Pageant.” At upwards to \$165 a ticket, that simply will not do. ▼

Die Meistersinger continues in repertory at the War Memorial through October 28. For tickets, call 864-3330.

Baez buzz

'Teatro ZinZanni' revisited

by Richard Dodds

Words I never expected to hear from Joan Baez: “How is the soup?” Actually it was more like, “How is zee zoup?” But I’m not sure she really cared.

Baez was doing her best to shed her image as a politically earnest folk icon as she schmoozed her way through the audience at Teatro ZinZanni, but she reminded me of Hillary Clinton trying to act zany. Yet there is a demure reality to Baez’s work that can offer a refreshing contrast to the high-pressure whimsy of the rest of the cast.

Outfitted in sequins and feathers and a blonde wig, Baez is a guest star in the long-running dinner-theater entertainment that combines burlesque, circus acts, and quite a bit of audience participation. The show remains an exercise in finely-tuned mayhem that dares even the most reserved patrons not to break out into broad grins by the evening’s end.

Baez is playing the no-longer-larger-than-life Madame ZinZanni for a limited run, a role which has been combined with that of the Chanteuse. Baez has four solos, and joins in several duets and ensemble numbers. She opens with a Piaf-like ballad, offers up “Falling in Love Again,” and encourages theatergoers to dance during “What’ll I Do?” But her voice comes most alive during “Gracias a La Vida,” one of her signature songs, and the audience cheered at this glimpse of the genuine Baez.

Teatro ZinZanni has been running since March 2000 in the ornate vintage circus-tent set up on the Embarcadero, disproving the widely held sentiment that this Seattle import would fail amid the entertainment sophistication of San Francisco. While the early shick of the faux restaurant staff can be dumb and even annoying, the longer-term effects are far more felicitous.

Kevin Kent, who was with the production when it opened, remains the biggest generator of



Legendary folkie Joan Baez plays Madame ZinZanni.

laughs as the drama-queen chef. Arriving before each course in increasingly flamboyant outfits, he picks on a different audience member to embarrass for our amusement. At a recent performance, Kent’s skills reached their zenith when he coaxed a barely legal cutie named Steven to take off his shirt, prance across the stage in a lion headdress, and plant a reluctant kiss on Kent’s rouged and powdered face.

The circus acts are another highlight, at least partly because

they are performed within inches of the nearest spectators. There is a disconcerting thrill when an acrobat spins a four-poster bed with his feet, a hefty prop that seemingly could become a dangerous projectile should anything go wrong.

This actually may help explain the success of Teatro ZinZanni. It is dinner theater as a thrill ride, a sensation of controlled danger — from spinning beds to clumsy mock waiters — that touches all who choose to board. ▼



Kevin Berne Photography

Dark souls in stark lighting

Film Noir series at the Castro Theatre

by Tavo Amador

In the 1940s and '50s, Hollywood studios turned out countless black-and-white mysteries and thrillers, many, if not most, B-pictures scheduled for the second half of double bills at neighborhood theaters. Later, French critics, dazzled by these movies, labeled them Film Noir and gave them respectability, although audiences had long enjoyed them. As a whole, they are characterized by crisp and moody chiaroscuro lighting, terse dialogue, wary but romantic leading men, and often, treacherous women. Sometimes those roles are reversed and the leading ladies are menaced by deadly males. In other words, neither sex is to be trusted. From Tuesday, October 23 through Thursday, October 25, the Castro Theatre is running six examples of the genre. (Another eight will be shown from Monday, November 12 through Thursday, November 15, and will be discussed in a subsequent article.)

Some noir classics are variations on the Eve/Pandora as Destructive Temptress theme, and therefore can be labeled misogynist. But on another level, they also show how much women were forced to conceal behind the placid exteriors male-dominated society insisted they assume. Even viewers uncomfortable with the femme fatale portrayal — who see

it as an image driven by masculine fears — will concede that many of the actresses playing these roles etched indelible screen portraits, inevitably leading to the question, Why did she turn out that way?

That question is seldom answered, which makes the movies that much more intriguing. *Out of the Past* (1947) features the stunning Jane Greer as the classic woman of mystery. Based on Daniel Mainwaring's pulp novel *Build My Gallows High*, this is one of the most stylish and influential noir movies. Greer plays the fugitive girlfriend of tense but well-dressed gangster Kirk Douglas. He hires private detective Robert Mitchum to find her. Mitchum succeeds, only to learn the danger of mixing work and pleasure.



Jane Greer: stunning.

Greer doesn't appear until the last half of the movie, but by then audiences are so desperate to see her that she makes an enormous impact. She keeps you guessing as to her motives and intentions. Jacques Tourneur's swift direction is helped enormously by Nicholas Musaraca's sinister cinematography. With Rhonda Fleming, who would often portray a deadly beauty, playing a nice one. (Greer had a featured role in the poor 1983 remake, *Against All Odds*, starring James Woods and Rachel Ward.)

Passing strangers

When Alfred Hitchcock's *Strangers on a Train* (1950) was released, gay audiences (and hip straight viewers as well) must have enjoyed the implicit homo-eroticism in the scene where boyish Robert Walker meets beautiful Farley Granger. Their initial conversation has all the earmarks of cruising typical of the era. Also typical, and far more destructive, Walker plays a mentally disturbed individual who may be a closet queen. The movie, adapted by Raymond Chandler and Czenzi Ormonde from Patricia Highsmith's novel, has the wealthy Bruno Anthony (Walker) suggesting that he and tennis star Guy Haines (Granger) each do the other a murderous favor. Guy doesn't take the proposal seriously, but Bruno does, living up to his end of the deal. The film works up to a famous and suspenseful finale



Farley Granger: easy on the eyes.

at an amusement park carousel. Walker is excellent, and Granger is very easy on the eyes. With Ruth Roman, Marion Lorne, Leo G. Carroll, and Patricia Hitchcock, the director's daughter, who's quite amusing.

Pauline Kael called *Laura* (1944), based on Vera Caspary's terrific novel, "everybody's favorite chic murder mystery," and she was right. This time, the beautiful eponymous heroine (Gene Tierney) is — or seems to be — the victim, not the killer. The super-elegant Clifton Webb plays her mentor, acerbic columnist Waldo Lydecker; Vincent Price is her weak fiancé, Shelby; stylish Judith Anderson is her wealthy aunt, who wants Shelby for her-



Gene Tierney: beautiful.

self; and Dana Andrews is the cop trying to figure out what really happened. The Oscar-winning cinematography is by Joseph LaShelle. Lyle Wheeler, Leland Fuller and Thomas Little designed the marvelous sets, mainly fashionable Manhattan apartments. Otto Preminger directed with unusual subtlety. The Oscar-nominated Webb (he lost the Best Supporting Actor Academy Award to Barry Fitzgerald's sentimental Irish priest in the sticky *Going My Way*) plays the first of his undeclared and none-too-nice queens, and is dazzling, easily stealing the picture. On just about any level, this is one of the best mysteries ever made.

Terrible waste

In contrast, Preminger's over-the-top *Angel Face* (1933), which wastes the lovely Jean Simmons as a rich, murderous young woman who hates her mother, and Robert Mitchum as the family chauffeur

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The stylish closet case

The career of Clifton Webb

by Tavo Amador

If Clifton Webb (1891-1966) were alive today, he'd co-star on *Frasier*, as the uncle upon whom the eponymous hero and his brother Niles modeled their interests, snobbery, wit, and elegance. His character would never come out of the closet — viewers would presume he was gay, just as audiences did in the '40s and '50s, when he became one of the few character actors to achieve full-fledged stardom. Although best-remembered as Waldo Lydecker, the acid-tongued columnist in *Laura* (1944), showing at the Castro Theatre on Thursday, October 25, he made many films, almost all of them hits.

From the advent of talkies through the '60s, most Hollywood leading men relied on brawn to win their leading ladies. Gable, Cooper, Wayne, Brando, Eastwood took action. Education and refinement were indications that the man was homosexual — or British. No one personified this unspoken truth better than Webb, who became a screen star in middle age, following a successful Broadway career in musical comedies.

On stage, he co-starred with Beatrice Lillie, Gertrude Lawrence, and Ina Claire, and appeared in several silent movies. In 1933, MGM offered him a cameo

in Joan Crawford's *Dancing Lady*, but Webb insisted on equal billing, which the studio refused. Fred Astaire, making his film debut, replaced him. Two years later, MGM signed Webb to co-star with Crawford in *Elegance*, but her dancing was no match for his, and the film was scrapped.

He returned to the theatre, appearing in, among other plays, *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*. He was in the latter in Los Angeles when Otto Preminger, preferring him to original choice Laird Cregar, offered *Laura*. He stole the film, receiving a Best Supporting Actor Oscar nomination, and followed it with a similar part, hiding with Lucille Ball in *The Dark Corner* (1946). That same year he played the snobbish Elliot Templeton in Somerset Maugham's *The Razor's Edge* — a flawless performance, stealing the picture from Tyrone Power and Gene Tierney, and getting a second Supporting Oscar nomination. Webb's death scene is hilarious and touching, transcending camp.

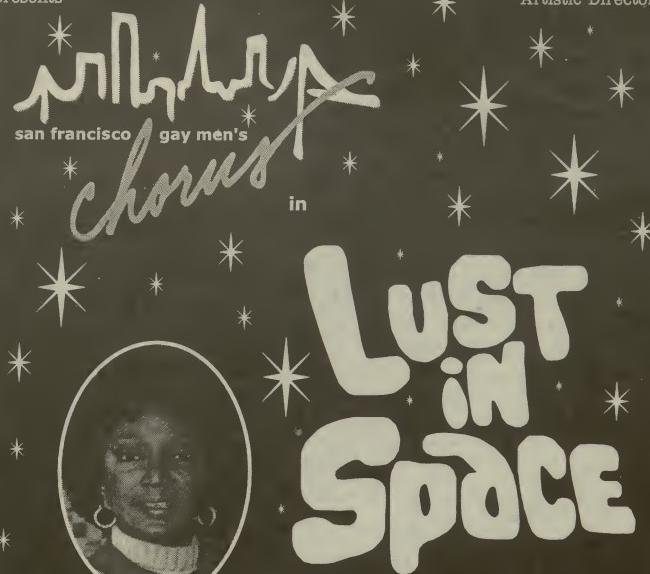
Sitting pretty

He returned to Broadway in Coward's *Present Laughter*, then was *Sitting Pretty* (1948) as babysitter Mr. Belvedere, showing little tolerance for his charge. His hilarious performance earned a Best Actor Oscar nomination, and

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Roxie becomes a horror house

SF Film Society's Dark Wave series screens eight films

by Gary Morris

With the world awash in real-life horrors, it's a little surprising that filmmakers can continue to wring thrills — and box office receipts — out of vampires, ghosts, zombies, *et al.* But audiences apparently want something that the monsters surrounding them in their daily lives can't give. Feeding this enduring fetish is Dark Wave, the San Francisco Film Society's four-day, eight-feature festival that samples recent horror films from around the world. This review samples four of the eight films playing the Roxie Cinema from October 19-22.

From Spain comes Jaume Balagueró's *The Nameless*, based on a novel by a late disciple of H.P. Lovecraft, Ramsey Campbell. Campbell is Britain's leading horror writer. Like Lovecraft, he specializes in hidden horrors that must be unearthed by some pa-

thetic Everyman, who pays dearly for penetrating the mysteries. In this case it's an Everywoman, Claudia (Emma Vilarasau), whose six-year-old daughter Angela vanishes mysteriously. Five years later, Claudia gets a phone call, seemingly from Angela, who pleads for rescue. Thus begins a compelling if Byzantine tale of a secret society linked to Nazi atrocities, and their attempts to plumb the depths of evil.

Balagueró's command of this dicey material, which sails over the top in some extremely gruesome imagery, only falters at the end, when the revelations come at such a dizzying pace the viewer is left more confused than creeped out. Cinematography is first-rate in this color film that often looks black-and-white, and the acting throughout is fine, giving credibility to a story that on paper may not have had much. (10/19)

Korean films are rarely seen in this country, so *Nightmare* (*Kawee*), despite its Brian de



Wendigo is based on a Native American folk tale.

Páuma-style plot twists and parade of gore, is especially welcome. Directed by Byung-Ki Ahn, this unofficial remake of *I Know What You Did Last Summer* features a group of seven university students, one of whose members commits suicide. One by one, the other members are brutally dispatched. There are some effective set-pieces here, and the final scene, though not entirely unexpected, bears comparison with the ending of *Carrie* as a sudden gruesome jolt. Still, the actors are so pretty (the fractured press notes call them "the most beautiful people") that the film sometimes looks like a photo spread from a Korean version of *Cosmo*. (10/20)

City folks

American Larry Fessenden has made a minor splash as a director of artfully grainy low-budget cinema, and *Wendigo*, based on a Native American folk character, is typical of his style. As in *Deliverance*, a family of city folks — Kim (Patricia Clarkson), hubby George (Jake Weber), and son Miles (Erik per Sullivan, from *Malcolm in the Middle*) — decide to abandon civilization for a weekend of communing with nature at a friend's country house. Inevitably, the locals aren't exactly hospitable, and all manner of spooky/deadly things occur. Not least of these is the appearance of the title character, who arrives in various guises — wind, water, and a guy in a deer suit — to terrorize both the vacationers and the townsfolk.

Fessenden's style — harsh, almost unpleasant photography

and vertiginous editing — is more interesting than the rather thin story. And he might have been wiser not to visualize the Wendigo at all. While there's enough atmosphere throughout to keep the viewer vaguely agitated, the man in the deer suit won't scare anyone over six. (10/22)

The best of the films screened, and the most fun, is Shusuke Kaneko's *Pyrokinesis*. Kaneko's filmography includes *Gamera 3: The Revenge of Iris* and *Haunted School 3*, but the cartoonishness suggested by these titles is employed to captivating effect in *Pyrokinesis*. This live-action anime imagines a Japan in which a few seemingly ordinary citizens have ESP and more deadly powers. Junko (Akiko Yada), a 20-year-old mail-worker with emotional problems, can cause instant, immolating fires through sheer force of will. When her boyfriend's sister is raped and killed, Junko goes after Kogure (Hidenori Tokuyama), the murderous son of a powerful businessman. Against a backdrop of political intrigue, police corruption, and her own tortured history, Junko brutally extracts her revenge. The film gets considerable mileage out of the contrast between the character's sweet, doll-like face and her lethal powers, which are so strong they threaten to overwhelm even her. The special effects have a cartoon-like charm in some scenes, and skirt the gruesome in others. The female pyro motif isn't new (*Firestarter*, starring Drew Barrymore, did it in 1984), but *Pyrokinesis*, with its high anime style, makes it seem so. ▼



Nightmare from Korea is a spread of pretty people.

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Pyrokinesis is a live-action anime.

FILM

Linda Blair

◀ Arts cover

Friedkin would have a prop man standing by to comfort Blair with sips of a chocolate shake. Blair said Friedkin not only won her complete trust, but the trust of her mother as well.

"Billy Friedkin is an extremely charming and intellectual fellow. He and my mother bonded from the minute they met. It was like a mother-son relationship. She looked at him as family, and trusted him completely."

Blair said it's something of a fluke that her mother ever brought her to Friedkin's office to audition for *The Exorcist* in the first place. Her acting work up to that point had been limited to TV commercials, where the cute, chubby-cheeked young actress hawked everything from Gilden's Mustard to Downy Fabric Softener. She had done over 75 spots by the age of 13, at which point Blair told her mother she'd like to retire from the business. "Within two weeks of my 'retirement,' I had an audition for *The Exorcist*," said Blair.

Girl talk

Blair's lack of acting experience actually works in her favor in *The Exorcist*. She's wonderfully real — very much a sweet, ordinary kid — in her early, pre-possession scenes. There's a particular warmth and naturalness to her interplay with Ellen Burstyn, who plays her mother in the film.

When I mentioned to Blair that the scene where she and Burstyn girl-talk before bed is my favorite in the film, she said, "It's my favorite, too. Those scenes were rehearsed for three months, which is why I think they work so well and seem so natural. The words were embedded in our brains. Of course, it helped that I was acting opposite Ellen, who is one of the finest actresses ever. To have that kind of intimacy with her was easy."

For those early scenes, Blair said Friedkin created a quiet, relaxed atmosphere on the set. "I remember his gentle way of whispering, 'Roll camera,'" said the actress. But for the rest of the film — after Regan has been seized by demonic forces, and her terrified mother turns to doctors, psychiatrists and finally an exorcist to save her — Friedkin's directorial approach changed drastically. From this point on, he tried to keep his actors as on-edge as possible, employing such nerve-fraying methods as refrigerating the set of Regan's bedroom, and firing a gun at random moments during filming.

"He and I talked about the gun recently," said Blair, "and he told me, 'I wasn't the first to do that. Peckinpah did it. So-and-so did it.' He said the objective is always the same, to shake the actors up in order to get the performances that

you want. And it worked."

In an unusual feat for a horror film, *The Exorcist* won 10 Oscar nominations in 1974, including nods for Blair, Burstyn and Friedkin. The film won awards for sound and for William Peter Blatty's screenplay. The film was a huge commercial success as well, becoming the then-second highest-grossing film in screen history. *The Exorcist* repeated its box-office success last year when it was re-released in a restored version, which scored even with jaded young horror fans more accustomed to the semi-satiric *Scream* trilogy and the spoopy *Scary Movies*.

"No one knew the re-release would be so successful," admitted Blair. "Billy and Blatty had talked about doing it for years. They finally got Warners to give the okay, which actually took some doing. They weren't sure how it would do, and they didn't want to put the money into it. But it definitely paid off."

Heresy here

When discussing her acting career, it's clear Blair preferred to talk about *The Exorcist* and leave it at that. When I began probing about the trashy B-movies (*Night Heat*), notorious TV-movies (*Born Innocent*) and big-budget misfires (*Airport 1975*) on her résumé, she answered politely if unenthusiastically. But you can't really blame her. How many times is she expected to explain what went wrong with *Exorcist II: The Heretic*, anyway? So, while I hated to do it, I had to ask: Um, Linda, what exactly did go wrong with *The Heretic*?

"Actually, the initial script was amazing," said Blair. "Amazing enough that it attracted [director] John Boorman, Richard Burton, James Earl Jones, Louise Fletcher, and so on. But the movie everyone saw was five drafts later. They changed so much, rewriting as we filmed."

Blair took on the character of Regan one last time for 1990's *Reposessed*, an *Exorcist* parody co-starring Leslie Nielsen. It's a middling comedy (*The Heretic* has more laughs), but Blair said it served its purpose, namely to lightheartedly put *The Exorcist* and Regan to rest once and for all. "After all those years, I finally got to laugh at Regan," said Blair, "and it felt great."

Blair still acts occasionally (she currently hosts the Fox series *Scariest Places*), but her main focus now is on her recently published book, *Going Vegan*. Concerns about growth hormones in cattle, mad cow disease, and the contamination of the ocean led Blair to an animal product-free diet, which in turn led to the book she calls a "lifestyle" (not diet) manual. Blair said writing the book was a "calling."

"I worked seven days a week for seven months on the book," said Blair. "I know the information is inside out. This son-of-a-gun



Director William Friedkin put his *Exorcist* cast (here, Linda Blair) through some tough love.

turned my life upside-down because I uncovered truths about what an animal-based diet does to our bodies. I'm full of information that I wish I didn't know."

A portion of the proceeds from Blair's self-financed book goes to Farm Sanctuary and other human- and animal-related charities, just the latest example of her commitment to charity fundraising. Over the past decade, Blair has taken advantage of her celebrity to raise money for a variety of pet causes. A few years ago, for example, she independently raised \$3,000 for flood victims in the Midwest by selling signed cans of pea soup (vegan, natch).

"*The Exorcist* gave me the ability to pursue my dreams," said Blair. "It gave me a platform to speak out on issues and raise money for charities that I care deeply about. I'm very grateful for that." ▼

Linda Blair Live! at the Castro Theatre on October 19 at 7 p.m. includes a screening of the restored *Exorcist*. Partial proceeds benefit PAWS. Call 863-0611.

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Exorcist actors were kept on-edge so they could channel demons.

Unidentified flying oddball

'Co-dependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same' at Rhino Studio

by Richard Dodds

There are so many gay male playwrights who score their points with lunacy that it's refreshing to find a lesbian writer effectively mining a similar vein. Madeleine Olnek is not a name yet known in these parts, but her star has been on the rise in New York with her off-the-wall takes on contemporary society.

Co-dependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same, being presented by the Half Baked Players in Theatre Rhino's Studio, is Olnek's official debut in San Francisco. This appealingly ridiculous look at outsiders — both from Earth and planets beyond — whets the appetite for more opportunities to experience Olnek.

In *Lesbian Space Alien*, Olnek imagines a distant planet where the ozone layer is being depleted by "big feelings." While hate and anger stay bottled up inside one's body, love is sent forth into the atmosphere, where it eats a hole in the sky. Those who can't help themselves are sent to Earth, where their love can eventually be drained by the heartache that always follows.

And so three lesbian aliens clumsily set out to find love among the earthlings, and in one case, their misbegotten approach works. The lonely and awkward Jayne finds a kindred spirit in Zoinx, who laughs at the wrong

places in movies and takes literally the lyrics to disco music.

Although this is a bare-bones production (save for the alien costumes), director John Morace knows how to coax maximum humor from the sketch-like script. The cast is also happily in tune with the cranked-up whimsy, earning big laughs that go beyond what is provided by the script.

This is abundantly true of Sara Moore as Zoinx and Ginger Eckert as Jayne. Moore brings a delightfully endearing goofiness to the alien, while Eckert uncovers a comic pathos to Jayne. Ann Iobst and Nancy Malone engagingly play fellow aliens with distinctive personalities, and Marcus DeCosta, Desi Del Valle, Joan Grinde, and 'Drew Todd turn up effective-

ly in multiple roles.

The Jewish Nun, a short auto-biographical piece by Olnek, provides a curtain-raiser with Joan Grinde standing in for Olnek as she recounts a confusing childhood as a half-Catholic, half-Jewish incipient lesbian. Grinde performed the virtual monologue agreeably, though her occasional stumbles over lines undermined our ability to transfer these personal experiences to someone other than their author. ▼

Co-dependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same and The Jewish Nun will run through Oct. 28 in the Studio at Theatre Rhino. Tickets are \$15. Call 861-5079.

Jenkins Dance

▲ Arts cover

what collaboration should be."

Curran says his job was "to write a score which would cover a wide scope of movement, mood, tensions, densities and abstract theatrical discourses, of which Margy is a particular master." His inspiration came from attending rehearsals last spring. Curran says his new work "features a trio of some of the Bay Area's best musicians — Joan Jeanrenaud, Fred Frith, and Willie Winant, a truly kooky combination of cello, elec-

tric guitar and bass marimba — there are other percussion instruments, too — who, in recording or live, give performances of unparalleled perfection." Jeanrenaud (late of Kronos Quartet) recalls how the composer took a tape of her solo, which he overlapped with other tracks and manipulated until it was even more astonishing.

Jenkins says that "the other collaborator who plays a significant role in my process is Michael Palmer." The New York-born, San Francisco-based poet is highly regarded and much honored, and has worked with Jenkins since



David Allen

(L to r:) Ginger Eckert, Sara Moore, Desi Del Valle and Ann Iobst

1974. His poem "I Do Not" has made a big impact on the dance piece. Its lines "I do not know English/I do not know English, and therefore I can have nothing to say about this latest war, flowering through a night-/scope in the evening sky. I do not know English and therefore, when hungry, can do no/ more than point repeatedly to my mouth" have a startling meaning given the horrific events of Sept. 11, and the subsequent images we've seen of starving Afghans while America wages war.

Yes and no

Asked about the relevance of *May I Now* in our dangerous geopolitical climate, Jenkins remarks, "I think it's a very complicated time, and all the knee-jerk reactions don't work and don't fit, because this is its own thing. And somehow this work has always been about the things that we approach and deflect, those things we say yes or no to. The parts of ourselves that say yes, we should retaliate, and no, we should do everything in our power to be a conscientious objector to that kind of violence and find other solutions. Each one of us has a yes and no inside."



Katie Kline
Choreographer Margaret Jenkins

This aspect of the dance is certainly clear at a subsequent rehearsal where the company, in street clothes, executes gestures and movements which emphasize what composer Alex North called "the ambivalent nature of human behavior." Hands raised imploringly, stern kicks, embraces, angry withdrawals — confrontation vs./and intimacy, order vs./and chaos. All these moments happen next page ►



Ken Pfeifer

May I Now is staged in nine episodes of varying lengths.

More blank than Frank

'The Blank Generation' revisits punk era

by Gary Morris

Every social movement needs a soundtrack, and despite widespread reports of apathetic youth and political stasis, the twilight years of the 20th century were ripe with both. The indie movements of the time — punk, new wave, grunge, rave culture — were equal parts music and lifestyle, a noisy grab during freefall at something dark, aggressive, and meaningful to counter the sunny sickness of America's middlebrow culture. New documentaries (one a double feature) offer flawed but fascinating tours of these movements.

In New York, punk was also art and poetry, with rockers like Patti Smith and Television creating music that was as much about providing an artistic and lifestyle model as delivering rhythm kicks to bored scenesters. *The Blank Generation* (1976), directed by Amos Poe and Ivan Kral, mixes quasi-live performances with interviews based on the New York incarnation of art-punk. On the same DVD is *Dancin' Barefoot* (1995), both an update and a stroll through the same history as seen through the eyes of Patti Smith collaborator Kral, with Smith getting the lion's share of

footage and commentary.

Blank Generation has considerable cachet as a contemporary record of that tumultuous time. Performers caught live at the Temple of Punk, CBGBs, include Smith, Television, Tuff Darts, Wayne (later Jayne) County, Blondie, the Ramones, Johnny Thunders, and more obscure talents like Harry Toledo, the Marbles, the Miamis, the Shirts, and the Heartbreakers. Musical highlights include a sizzling "Gloria" by the Patti Smith Group; a prep Wayne County's crazed genderfuck "Are You a Boy or Are You a Girl?" (she looks like a punked-out Phyllis Diller in a fright wig and trash-bag dress); and Blondie's sweet revamping of the Shangri-Las' "Out in the Streets."

One problem is that the live music isn't remotely synched to the visuals; Ivan Kral shot 8mm footage of the bands in their prime, but his camera lacked sound. For this documentary, Poe and Kral simply added live tracks to the visuals. So it's more than a little jarring to hear the soundtrack playing "Psycho Killer" while David Byrne is singing god knows what. Some of the groups haven't aged well, but the film's rough editing and grainy black-and-white photography nicely evoke the grungy pleasures of the scene.

Punk royalty

Twenty years later, Kral shot an autobiographical documentary for Czech television that's as much a paean to Patti Smith as a retrospective of Kral's career. *Dancin' Barefoot* opens with testimonials from Bono, Byrne (who just nods dementedly) and others. Some of the same footage from *Blank Generation* is seen, with the added frisson of recent interviews with Iggy Pop, Debbie Harry, Lenny Kaye, Chris Stein, and other punk royalty. They recall the scene in enticingly gossipy detail. Johnny Ramone bitches about CBGBs, whose owner had an open-door policy for groups but wouldn't even give them a free beer. Chris Stein complains about Patti Smith's "bad writing" and "bad vibes" — one of the few negative comments in the film about her. Iggy Pop does note ruefully that when she suddenly quit, as major success beckoned, "she stranded her band."

Alexander Nichols' set, with its hangings which are transparent but not quite, should make these moves seem even more mysterious. Or as costume designer David F. Draper, who worked with Jenkins on her last piece, *Breathe Normally*, notes, "That was closer to doing a play, and was much cleaner, neater. But here there's no specific information. It's more cerebral and gut feeling in a way."

These opposites should get a workout. And Jenkins, who believes that "the role art can play is to sustain community or re-create community," should find the reception of her piece tempered and strengthened by our recent national tragedies. Terrorists may be something we know but can't see, and dance at its best should be something we can see but can't really know. That's a delicate balance, but a balance nonetheless, and one that will feel different and personal to each of us, in these fractured, precarious times. ▼

Margaret Jenkins Dance Co. performs *May I Now* from Oct. 19-27 at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St., SF. For tickets (\$20-\$25), call 621-7797.

performance footage and interviews. Punk historians, too, will appreciate the composite portrait of how the scene evolved, CBGBs' role, and the forces — often self-generated — that caused so many of the bands to self-destruct.

The West Coast scene was more raw and ragged than its New York counterpart, judging from *Rage: 20 Years of Punk Rock West Coast Style*, put together by actor Scott Jacoby and Michael Bishop. Again a mix of historical and contemporary footage and interviews, the film (running a mere 60 minutes) focuses on a handful of legendary figures from the movement: Jack Grisham of TSOL, Jello Biafra of the Dead Kennedys, Gitane DeMone of Christian Death, and Keith Morris of the Circle Jerks. (Fans of the many other pioneers of LA punk such as the Dils and X may be annoyed by their absence.) Duane Peters of US Bombs offers as good a manifesto for punk as any we've heard: "When I was a kid, I just knew I was pissed off. It was a fuckin' angry life 'til I found punk rock."

Despite the implied peace in his statement, Peters remains angry. His anger continues to drive him and keep him performing, unlike so many punks who o.d.'d or moved on. Grisham seems conflicted, proclaiming his refusal to compromise while lamenting the lack of interest by the mainstream. But there's more going on here than a miserable backward glance. DeMone talks intriguingly about all the sex going on at punk clubs ("on the sidelines"), the rituals (letting a candle melt on your hand), and her own sometimes dicey situation as a "very aggressive female" in a male-dominated scene. Biafra is his usual articulate self.

Best of all is Morris, who keeps the faith without seeming pretentious or bitter. He spouts home truths dressed in a cowboy hat, psycho-sunglasses, and a gray wig that looks like it was pulled off a dead bag-lady. Despite his outré look, Morris is a model of zen equanimity: "I come from the working class, and you do what you do, and you get whatever reward you get and be happy with that." ▼

The Blank Generation screens Saturday, Oct. 20 at the Red Vic Moviehouse, 1727 Haight St.



Debbie Harry and Blondie revamp the Shangri-Las' "Out in the Streets."

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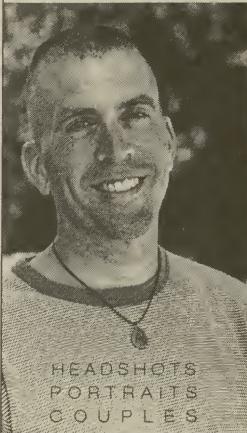
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Is Drummer title dead?

by Mister Marcus

The mood immediately following the International Drummer and Drummer Boy contests was of a decidedly celebratory nature. The Victory Party on Sunday following the contest was convivial and full of promise for the new titleholders and almost everyone who participated.

But on Monday, October 8, 2001, in an email sent to all the contestants, their sponsors and the board of directors of Drummer Contests, Inc., producer Mike Zuhl let the world know that he would no longer produce the two contests.

Citing several charges including breach of contract and immense dissatisfaction with the photographer employed by the Drummer Contest owners from Amsterdam, Zuhl rallied support nationwide with his plan to stage a Drummer-type contest without the name "Drummer".

Contestants complained that the two henchmen from Amsterdam representing Martijn Bakker, owner, had overstepped their participation by completely rearranging the schedules of the contestants for the photo shoots. The photographer in question insisted the contestants ingest Viagra to "enhance" the nude photos he insisted on taking.

And where was Mr. Martijn Bakker, owner of Drummer? Reliable sources reported that he was "playing" at a social club in Atlanta the entire weekend. The 2001 edition of Drummer and Drummer Boy contest was the third time Mr. Bakker was not in attendance.

Since the Zuhl announcement, several people have chimed in with their assessment of the situation. I personally received over 172 emails on the subject — all supportive of Mike Zuhl's decision.

The question also arose as to whether or not we really need another leather title contest. Zuhl responds that a "Drummer-type" contest will take place and the entire Drummer Class of 2001, and the regional sponsors have indicated their support of that endeavor.



Smiling Drummer winners Gary Vandeventer, left, and Mark Greene in Florida. They could be the last two men to hold the Drummer titles.

Vern Stewart

Let's face it — there is no *Drummer* magazine any longer. If you wish to pay to read whatever the web site contains, that is as close to a magazine as you will get.

In the past, Mr. Drummer winners were never forced to pose nude but were given the option of doing so or not. One previous winner demanded a \$3000 fee for a photo shoot, which was rejected, and so his exposure in the magazine was limited.

Whatever the eventual disposition, a Drummer-type contest will take place next October 2002 in Florida. Drummer is an American leather tradition and at the risk of sounding provincial, I would venture that it is a California tradition as well. The feeling is that "foreign intervention" is not acceptable to all parties concerned.

Whether the throne chair in Amsterdam pursues staging International Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy in the U.S. is open to conjecture. The regional sponsors are not likely to succumb to any enticements from Amsterdam. Several of the 2002 Drummer contestants are already balking at having their photos on the Drummer web site and the murmuring of "law suit" gets stronger and stronger with each passing day. Stay tuned. It could be a

bumpy ride!

On the home front

Last Friday, October 12, one of San Francisco's most cherished institutions, Leather Extravaganza, took place at the stunning Atelier Gallery on Upper Market St.

The leather faithful plunked down \$100 each to enjoy a vast array of wines from *Wine & Spirits Magazine*, a sumptuous dinner by the new Raddish Caterers, and superb entertainment by Veronica Klaus and Lonnie Tuck. The 2002 Bare Chest Calendar men were the waiters. Finlandia Vodka provided spirits, along with Greener Liquors. Mike Hargiss was the main bartender, and Werner Tillinger was the master of ceremonies. The \$50 ticket-holders arrived at around 2000, and the crowd proved to be a great mixture of leather and others in our community.

The next night, Saturday, October 13, at the Galleria, Ing Yun's "Hoedown 2001" saw close to 600 Country Western types converge for a night of dancing, entertainment and a silent auction. The sale of raffle tickets by the Bare Chest Calendar Men garnered some \$4,000, and the silent auction brought in another \$1,000. All told, an estimated total of \$11,000 was raised. Supervisor Mark Leno was on hand to issue the highest award from the Board of Supervisors to Hoedown. ▼

**Bazaar**

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, October 19-21

The Orange Coast Leather Assembly (OCLA) presents "Sampler XII," an enlightening weekend of lectures, workshops and play parties. For details, email Sampler@ocla.org.

Friday, October 19

Hayes Valley Mr. Leather 2001 contest takes place at Marlena's tonight. The judges are in place and the winner will compete for the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2002 contest next March 8.

Meet & Greet the judges and contestants for Leather Dyke Boy and Leather Dyke Girl at Daddy's tonight at 2030, followed by a play party at Castlebar.

Hepatitis C Research & Education benefit at Club Townsend, featuring performer Sandra Bernhard, from 1900-2300. Tickets are \$65. For more info, call 289-6650.

Exiles of SF present "Please, Daddy" — all you want/need to know about the Daddy thing — at the Women's Building. Doors open at 1930; program at 2000. For details, click on www.theexiles.org.

Saturday, October 20

Leather Dyke Boy and Leather Dyke Girl contests at the El Rio (Mission @ Cesar Chavez). Doors

open at 1530; contest runs 1600 to 2000. \$10 advance, \$12 at door.

Constantines MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon.

At the Triple R in Guerneville, the 7th Annual Mr. Triple R Leather contest happens. T.Jay Cain steps aside for a successor, and it should be a fun event.

The 15 Association's monthly play party at the usual location. \$15 for non-members. Guests must arrive with their sponsors. For info: 673-0452.

Sunday, October 21

Cal Eagles MC beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, for \$8 with an Oktoberfest theme (German Grub). Always fun with the Eagles. Also a victory brunch for the new Dyke Boi and Dyke Girl at Harvey's Folsom.

Fabulous 5 Reunion beer bust at Daddy's 1600-2000 to benefit the AEF, with Ray Tilton & T Jay Cain hosting. Only \$7, including raffles, auction, and entertainment.

Wednesday, October 24

It's Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison. You know the rules. No nonsense, no sneakers, no cologne! Call 777-HEAD.

Swingers unite!

by Sweet Lips

The other day a confused young gentlemen came into Club Rendez-Vous on Polk Street, where I pour drinks, and inquired if he was in the right place for swingers.

"Of course!" I replied, admiring his lean, hungry look. "Pick any one of these darlings at the bar, and I'm sure he'll be happy to swing with you!"

"Eeek!" the poor thing replied, obviously straight and scared out of his wits, and scurried out the street before I could even offer him a cocktail.

"Where on Earth did he think he was?" I pondered aloud, and one of my Internet savvy customers spoke up: "Calgary."

"Do tell," I encouraged him. It turns out there's a swingers' party

called Club Rendez-Vous, and they have the same Web address, but with a dash in a different place. Well, I hope he found his way to Calgary okay!

If the guy is reading this, he should come back this Friday, October 19, because that's when *Til Friday* takes place, and there will be plenty of "girls" for a guy like him. Last time we had a *Golden Girls* tribute, the guys went wild. You'd have thought they were straight!

Speaking of straight men, the 49ers will have this weekend off, so you'll have to get your football kicks from some other team. The home boys will be back on October 28, when the 49er Gay Fan Club will meet here at Club Rendez-Vous in time for the 10 a.m. kick-off. David Kapp will be on hand to serve Bloody Marys.

Those of you who hang out at

Reflections bar should know that the cute Little Mikey there will be celebrating his birthday on Sunday, October 21 from 3 p.m. on, with special drink prices, food and surprises.

I do encourage you to get out to other watering holes, just to keep you on your feet. So get on over to Uncle Bert's Place in the Castro and introduce yourself to the great Marlow, who walks the plank there on weekends.

On the vacation front — I know how many of you combine travel with your drinking, which is fine as long as you let someone else drive — Lon and Tom Morgan of the popular Circle J have gone off to Puerto Vallarta for the Christmas holiday. Yes, it's a bit early, but they want to squeeze in some "swinging" time. ▼

The Web address for Club Rendez-Vous is www.clubrendez-vous.com (not www.club-rendezvous.com).

Cocktail Hour

The poor thing replied, obviously straight and scared out of his wits, and scurried out the street before I could even offer him a cocktail.

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Clifton Webb

◀ page 29

the film was a smash, so he followed with *Mr. Belvedere Goes to College* (1949), not nearly as good. He played Myrna Loy's husband and father of their 12 children in *Cheaper by the Dozen* (1950), dying again, so only his voice was heard in the sequel, *Belles on their Toes* (1952). Although sometimes cast as a paterfamilias, his manner made it clear that siring offspring was a duty, not a pleasure. He portrayed a helpful angel in *For Heaven's Sake*, then starred in *Mr. Belvedere Rings the Bell* (1951).

Much better was *Dreamboat* (1952) with Ginger Rogers, playing a ham actor rediscovered when his old films are shown on television. He starred as John Philip Souza in the jingoistic *Stars and Stripes Forever* (1952), then sailed with Barbara Stanwyck on the *Titanic* (1953), stoically going down with the ship. That same year he was Mr. Scoutmaster, a sticky return to Mr. Belvedere in all but name, then had another smash as the older expatriate writer whom Dorothy Maguire loves in 1954's *Three Coins in the Fountain*.

Also in 1954, he was top-billed in *Woman's World* as a bachelor CEO deciding which man (Fred MacMurray, Cornel Wilde, Van Heflin) will get key position based on his impressions of their wives (Lauren Bacall, June Allyson, Arlene Dahl), an awful film, but a great guilty pleasure. He became *The Man Who Never Was* (1956) as a World War II spy opposite Gloria Grahame, portraying a greedy collector of ancient artifacts in *Boy on a Dolphin* (1957) with Sophia Loren and



Clifton Webb was a character actor whom audiences presumed was gay.

Alan Ladd, and starred as a Victorian father in *Mr. Penneypacker* (1958). He and Maguire took a *Holiday for Lovers* (1959), then he and William Holden were priests in war-ravaged China, discovering that *Satan Never Sleeps* (1962), a moving performance in his final film.

In real life, the gay Webb lived with his mother, Maybelle — they were a famous Hollywood couple. When she died, he held regular seances in the hopes of establishing contact. Whether they reunited is unknown, but he achieved a unique cinema immortality without supernatural help. ▼

Film Noir

◀ page 29

who gets caught up in the Freudian psychobabble, is as subtle as Joan Rivers on *E!* This laughable camp gives new meaning to the frequently temperamental director's nickname, "Otto the Terrible."

Sir Carol Reed's sensational *The Third Man* (1949), based on Graham Greene's novel, has been reissued in a new print, and is more dazzling than ever. Joseph

Cotten is novelist Holly Martins, who comes to Allied army-occupied Vienna at the request of old friend Harry Lime (Orson Welles). Lime, however, has disappeared. Beautiful Alida Valli is the dancer who loved the missing man. The famous zither music by Anton Karas adds to the atmosphere. The Austrian capital's cobblestone streets and amusement park have never seemed so lonely or frightening.

The last film included in this series is Robert Siodmak's version of Ernest Hemingway's short story

The Killers (1946). Anthony Veiller wrote the screenplay, and the impossibly hunky Burt Lancaster is the man on the run. Gorgeous Ava Gardner, in a star-making performance, is the woman who does him wrong. With Edmond O'Brien, Albert Dekker and William Conrad, long before television made him famous as Cannon. The cinematography, dark and moody, is by Woody Bredell. ▼

Please check theatre listings for dates and times.

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Sun 21

Justin Hermann Plaza
The SF Bicycle Coalition and the GLBT Historical Society present "Queer History Bike Tour." Celebrate Queer History Month with a tour of SF's queer neighborhoods from the 1930s to now. Learn how Halloween was celebrated as Gay Pride day in pre-stonewall SF. Visit sites of queer community and resistance, including SF's own Stonewall, the California Hall riot. The tour ends at the Wildside West in Bernal Heights for post-ride drinks and socializing. \$5 donation (free to SFBC members). 11am-3pm. Market @ Embarcadero. Info: 431-BIKE; www.sfbike.org

RCH, Inc.

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence present "Habits of Love," a benefit for RHC Inc. (formerly Recreation Center for the Handicapped) and Theatre Unlimited. An evening of art, theatre and fundraising. Art and photography, raffles, a BBQ, and a bar sponsored by Absolut. See 30 larger than life portraits by Thomasina De'Maine of the Sisters, as well as various Burning Man personalities. Also photographs by Danny McCarthy of the 2001 SF Pride Parade. Luminaries on hand include Miss Gay San Francisco! Plus art cars, fire dancers, belly dancers, bands, and DJs. Donations gratefully accepted at door. 5-9pm. 207 Skyline Blvd. @ Herbst Rd. (Behind the SF Zoo). Info: Candace Locklear at 510-535-1268; email: pippi@burningman.com

First Unitarian Universalist Church

The G40+ Club presents American Civil Liberties Union-No. Calif. attorney Susan Mizner, discussing "LGBT Issues and Progress." The G40+ Club, SF's Prime Timers Chapter, is a social organization of mature men, their friends and admirers over age 21. Free. 2:30pm. 1187 Franklin St. Info: 552-1997.

Covered Wagon Saloon

Klubstitute Collective presents "The 7th Annual Virgin Queen Contest" for first-time drag queens. Featuring "a vast variety of vile and vain-glorious vixens and vivacious virgin queens of questionable virtue viciously vying for victory in a vibrantly vulgar and quixotic quest." Verily. The contest is open to first-time drag queens only (must never have performed in full drag, or done any kind of drag other than tacky Halloween or Gay Day). Must have Drag Mother to sponsor, do makeup, fix loose straps, etc. Hostesses and MCs: Ruby Toosd and Wendy Plains (Faux Queen 2000). Celebrity Judges: Heklina (Dominatrix of Trannyshack); Lucia Love (Virgin Queen V); Terrance Alan (Everyman's Pornographer); Shock Shackwell (Int'l Smack-Down Champ of the World); Johnny Kat (Drag Superstar); and Kennedy (simply amazing). Also featuring performances by Laissez Le Chat (Virgin Queen 2000), Patty O'Furniture (Faux Queen II), and Demanda Mann (Virgin Queen IV).



Kiki & Herb appear at the Great American Music Hall. See Thursday.

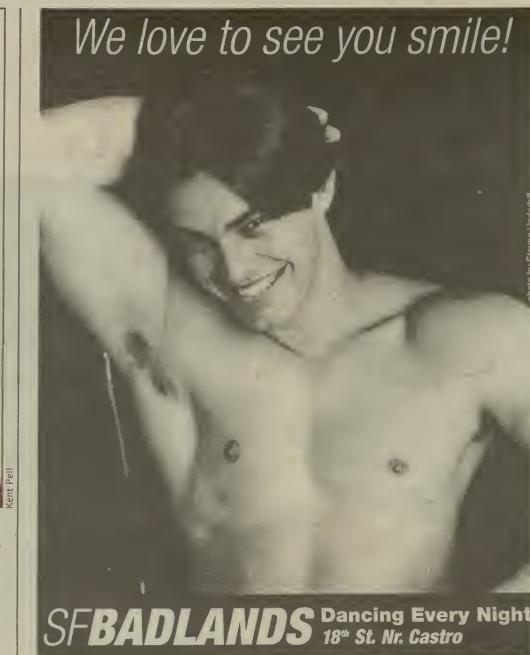


Photo by Steven Uhlendorff

SF BADLANDS Dancing Every Night 18th St. Nr. Castro

Delectable tunes served up by DJ Jamez. A benefit for SF Sex Information switchboard. Klubstitute Collective continues the non-traditional traditions of the late Diet Popstitute, founder and inspiration. \$8-\$25 sliding (NOTAFLOP). Doors open 8:30pm. 917 Folsom St. (at 5th St.). Info: 331-1500 ext. 3438.

Justice League

Special screening: "Liquid Crystal Vision," a film by Torsten Klimm and Billy Rood exploring the rave scene around the world. An intuitive collage of electronic dance music, 3-D computer animation, and live club footage inspires and encourages the viewer with positive vibes. Part of the 4th annual United Nations Association Film Festival. \$12. 7pm reception; film at 8pm; party at 9:30pm. 628 Divisadero (btwn Fulton & Grove). Info: www.unaff.org

Mon 22

Build

Class: "Grantwriting for Artists, Writers, Performers & Filmmakers," taught by Hank Pellissier. \$29. 7-9:30pm. 485 Guerrero St. (near 16th St.).

Eureka Valley Recreation Center

"Intro to Square Dancing," hosted by Western Star Square Dancers. Please wear soft-soled shoes only. 7:30-9:30pm. 100 Collingwood St. (at 18th St.). Info: Tom Ophardt, (510) 465-3452.

Tue 23

Plush Room, Hotel York

Cabaret queen Sharon McNight returns with "Songs to Offend Almost Everyone," back by popular demand.

Joan Edgar presides on piano. songs include Sondeheim's "I Never Do Anything Twice," Ray Stevens' "Would Jesus Wear a Rolex?," Eddie Cantor's "The Dumber They Come, The Better I Like Them," and Tom Lehrer's "Masochism Tango," among other naughty tunes. \$25 w/2-drink minimum. 8pm. Thru Nov. 4. Info/tix: 885-6800.

SF Camerawork

Opening reception: "Not Landscape: Fragments and Metaphors," featuring the works of six photographers offering new perspectives on the concept of landscape in this centennial anniversary of renowned landscape photog-

rapher Ansel Adams birth. Free. 5-8pm. 1246 Folsom St. Info: www.sfcamerawork.org

Armistead Maupin (*The Tales of the City*) reads and discusses his latest work, *Night Listener*. Free. 7pm. 1644 Haight St. (btwn Clayton & Cole). Info: 863-8688; www.booksmit.com

Eros Gallery

Opening reception: "Erotic Nudes by Kelly Grider." Grider creates winged men and mystical creatures through the use of multilayering of negatives. Free. 6-9pm. 2051 Market St. Info: 255-4921.

UCSF

Video screening: "Our House: Kids of Lesbian & Gay Parents," featuring children from five diverse families talking about what it means to have gay or lesbian parents. Noon. Room 303, Health Sciences West Bldg. (behind 513 Par-nassus Ave.). Info: UCSF LGBT Resources, 502-5593.

ODC Theater

Lizz Roman & Dancers present "8 1/2 x 11, Playing in Stable Places," an hour-long evening of site specific dance in which 11 of roman's tough and talented dancers take over the entire building, tumbling, flipping and flying to the live music of Talitha Jones on cello and Justine Shaw on keyboards. \$15. 8pm & 9:30pm each night thru Oct. 28. 3153 17th St. (at Showell). Info/tix: 863-9834; www.odcdance.org/theater

Aquarius Records

Opening reception: "The Spirit of Sound: a visual presentation of music" organized by Aquarius Records and Creativity Explored (a nonprofit arts organizations for adults with disabilities). The show encompasses the artwork of bands, both real and imagined, along with paintings inspired by the sounds of the artists' own internal music. Free. 5:30-8:30pm. 1055 Valencia St. Info: 647-2272; aquarirecords.org; creativityexplored.org

Thu 25

Great American Music Hall

Drag cabaret wonders Kiki & Herb (Justin Bond and Kenny Mellman) perform "Stop, Drop & Roll," marking the duo's first public performance in the Bay Area in nearly three years (they relocated to NYC from SF several years ago). They plow through songs by Meatloaf, Suicidal Tendencies, Radiohead, Kate Bush and others, interspersed with bits of Kiki's brash and boozy biography. Since 1993, the duo have been performing to standing-room-only crowds internationally. \$15. 8pm. 859 O'Farrell St. Tix/info: 885-0750; TicketWeb.com

Blue Sky Studios

"GLBT Historical Society Community History Awards 2001," in commemoration and celebration of GLBT History Month, which happens each October. This year's winners include The Pacific Center for Human Growth, the Friends of 1800, writer Judy Grahn (Woman of the Year), and Harvey Milk Institute founding member Andrew Broder Elk (Man of the Year), Libations and hors d'oeuvres served. Mingle and meet with guests, honorees, and Historical Society staff, board, and membership. \$50 or more. 2325 Third St. (intersection of 3rd St. & 20th St.). Info/tix: 777-5455; www.glbthistory.org/communityawards

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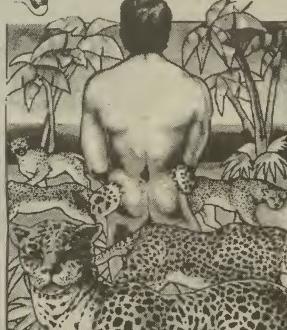
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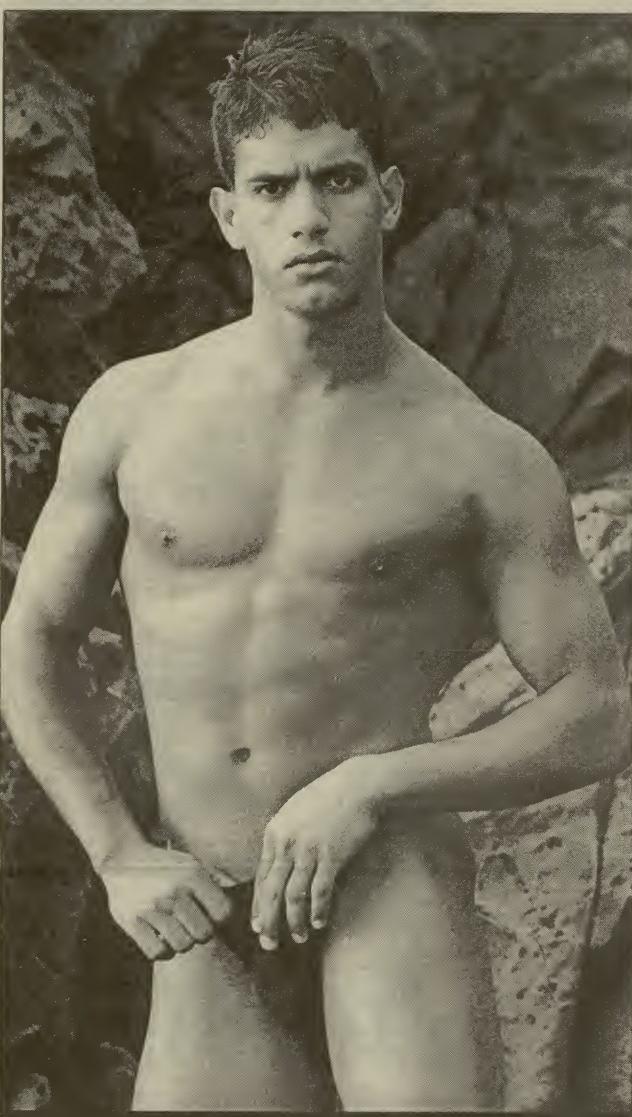
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- Parting Glances
- Seeking Relationship
- Seeking Adventure
- Lesbian
- Fetishes
- Couples
- Others

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

PARTING GLANCES

If Seeking Blind Dates
Your ad does not belong here. Please place your ads in the appropriate columns. Blatant acts of desperation are not attractive. If not seeking someone you've met, back off, okay? ☎ 71660

José From Venezuela
Why didn't I get your number on Friday? You got me right where you wanted me twice and it was incredible. I'm spoilt for other men. Get in touch. Rick ☎ 71661

Marty! Saw You At Steaks
In August. We met back in 1993; you drove up to my cabin at Monte Rio (R. River). Let's reconnect/exchange current phone #'s etc. ok? Gettys. ☎ 71683

Diamond Heights Safeway 9/18
9:30pm. You: red-hair, goatee. Me: brown and gray, beard. My fritos were bigger than yours but you had more spaghetti sauce. "Cup of Earl Grey sometime?" ☎ 71684

Hunk By Chevron Station
Thursday, September 20 at 7:30pm. we exchanged smiling faces while you were walking through the Chevron station on 17th with a package. You were wearing light colored shirt. I'm the dark haired fellow with a goatee and was wearing jeans and walking with a friend down Market Street. Wish I'd said hello. Meet for coffee? ☎ 71685

America Leaving Detour
You leaving Detour October 8. You'll be missed here in San Francisco. Good luck in San Diego. Keep in touch. Seventy. ☎ 71686

Wow! Ass @ Cheesecake Factory
Vg! Young Asian w/friend-date? In lobby 9/22, 9:30am very direct looks! Me: leaving you being seated. Couldn't speak—definitely lets meet! Dream boy are you very cute. ☎ 71687

N Judah—
Sat 8/22 got on at Cole. Sat across from you. I wore sunglasses because I had great hairy legs. Let's talk—meet? Thanks ☎ 71059

Wed 9/26 8am Mkt/Church
You: blue car, s/p hair, great smile. Me: white car, smiling back. Let's talk. ☎ 71060

Pleasuredome, Sunday Oct 7+
You: Extremely attr. White guy, blond hair, built swimmers build, saying a prayer on dance floor when I noticed you. Have a attr. Phillipino boyfriend. Me: Handsome, built Bik man. Would like to meet you two. Would like to develop a good friendship/relationship. Thanks for a good dance & conversation. Sorry about your incident the night before. "Peace!" ☎ 71075

Watergarden SJ Employee "Johnny"
I get a room & I fantasize, you to come in, J/O. I can give you oral service, for you look so hot to the eyes. ☎ 71076

"Glen", Folsom Street Fair,
I wanted to call but lost your number. You liked my smile, le, and leather. Let's hook up. ☎ 71077

Folsom Street Fair*
Me, a security guard in a cowboy hat at 9th and Howard gate. You in a harness and jeans cuts off. I want to kiss you again. ☎ 71078

Margaret Cho, 10:30 Eyecontact?
Me: GAM wifriend, you GWM w? You were in same row across aisle. We smiled at each other when leaving. Interested in meeting for more? ☎ 71079

"Brady!" Castro St. Fair Evening
You were on Castro or Henry and we had fun. Call if you want a 3-way. ☎ 71080

I'm Looking A 4 BM Top!

I'm 30s old (looks younger) 5'7", 157# medium body. Hobbies: working, music, movies, etc. Looking 4 BM under 5'10", looks younger, slim to m.b., no drugs, smoke, size unimportant. ☎ 71692

Our Eyes Met, Our Spirits.....

Exchanged energy. Just for that moment nothing else mattered, let this Aug 11, 01 be our first day as one. K- ☎ 71696

Black Available For Quality
Master. Me: 5'11", 175lbs, 50, muscular, professional, loner by choice, personable, CMT, made to serve. You: a patient top with a long time desire for a quality slave. Interested in control, humiliation, building a meaningful relationship, and good times. Serious only, let's talk. ☎ 71099

Young Cute Russian

Looking for another Russian, European or intelligent American to share love, common interests, etc. I am healthy and sexy. You must be the same and no older than 40. ☎ 71693

San Francisco Dreaming—

Successful, handsome and adventurous Physician and Surgeon is moving to San Francisco to pursue his dreams. I am 39, 5'11", 155lbs. I am honest, intelligent, and, I have a warm heart. I am patiently and selectively searching for a young professional or student for friendship leading to a long term, committed relationship. You may say I am a dreamer but I hope one day to find that special person and, together, we will experience all the joy life has to offer. ☎ 71694

Seeking Uncut Friend

GWM, 6', 175#, youthful senior, HIV-neg wants sex and a relationship with an uncut man. I like reading/conversation, cuddling and the outdoors. I'm masculine, affectionate and open to new activities. ☎ 71061

Looking For A Man To Love

I am Asian 40yrs old 5'8", 140lbs. good shape & slim body. HIV- looking for an older G.W.M for possible lr. No smoke seriously only. Wh/ hair & little chubby very+. ☎ 71062

Dad Seeks Son

Attractive Dad 40+ HIV-, hairy Italian, passionate, romantic, caring seeks smooth son under 35, HIV-, attractive in-shape, who seeks lr with attentive sweet youthful dad type. ☎ 71063

Go To Church With Me

GWM 39, 6'4", 230, social drinker, N/S, sexually versatile and adventurous, professional seeks: Practicing Catholic, 35-55, employed, HIV-, honest, and hopeful for friendship and possibly more. Race, weight unimportant. ☎ 71662

"Can Your Top Man Keep It Up?"

Do you wear out most tops? Unsatisfied with fifteen minutes of sex? Frustrated when he tops out after two rounds and you're just warming up? Hung, verbal, imaginative long sessions. ☎ 71064

Busco Hombre Latino Masculino

I am: 33, 5'9", 51x. Mexican, masculine, pale white skin, good personality, bottom in San Jose. You: 25-35 Latino, top with good personality with a friendship or serious relationship in mind. ☎ 71065

"Like To Cuddle?"

Straight acting prof. GLM, 53, 6'3", 250, HIV-, iso 180 smooth bottom Asian/Latin+, interest are antiques roadshow, movies, pets, not into bar scene. ☎ 71066

Cute Old Guy Seeks Same

Tall built hung hairy 63yr, old, bearded & good-looking with sophisticated literary tastes seeks compatible men for lively talk and spirited sex. ☎ 71067

"GWM Seeks Hombre"

I am GWM 30ish, good lkq, energetic, & deaf guy seek to share entertainments plus sports. Pls no screaming females, bffles & NS. I am attracted to Hombres with wolf howls. If you are ready up to this point, please call & let's see if we can go out & have blast time! ☎ 71082

Seeking A Vigorous Top Mate

Me: middle aged AM bottom in fine shape, 5'7"; You: strictly top, clean, N/D, no communicable disease, any race/age, having an eager able good size tool. ☎ 71083

Monogamous Muscular Man

Seeks same 40-55, HIV-neg, with sensitive nips for dating (T.V., movies, dining, & t/tip in S.F. I'm Asian, 5'7", 150#, 40, 30c, HIV-neg. NS, no anal. ☎ 71084

I Will Cook, You Drive

Masculine, 6'2", 250, dimples, handsome, Eastbay manbo, seeks (call the shots kind of man), HIV- for fun romantic times. I'm All American and enjoy the edge. ☎ 71085

SEEKING ADVENTURE

White Top With 9" Cock Wants Hot
White or Latino ass to fuck. You be under 40 and submissive. I am 57yrs old, 6'0", 165lbs drk brn eyes glasses big 9" dick love to fuck hot butts. ☎ 71669

Our Eyes Met, Our Spirits.....

Exchanged energy. Just for that moment nothing else mattered, let this Aug 11, 01 be our first day as one. K- ☎ 71696

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____

Address _____ Evening Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Short Hairy Ruffian Wanted
5'8", 140# hairy muscled tattooed skinhead leatherman ISO shorter hairy muscled buddy (Folsom visitor or local boi) into rough sweaty muscle struggle, aggres, punching, sucking, hard butt-banging. ☎ 71697

"50"
Designer of mens underwear seeking 18-24 muscular of slim no strings attached sex. No fats of fems. All races okay. Large swollen nipples a plus. ☎ 71671

"Strong Suction"
I love sucking big swollen nipples, with muscular chest. And nice clean asses for fucking. Big round asses a plus with muscular type lets. No fats or fems. ☎ 71672

ISO Men With Foreskin To Fuck
This mature in-shape W/M loves foreskin. You must be lean (no pudges) and trim. Tight or loose foreskin, the longer, the better. Blind meat ok. ☎ 71674

Be My Sweet Hairy Daddy
GWM, 42, 6'0", romantic, 7'uncut, hairy, seeks extremely hairy daddy types 38-58. For romance and fun. Must be outgoing & affectionate. ☎ 71675

East Bay J/O
Tall well exercised smooth tan GWM 40s wants East Bay j/o pals. Brn hair eyes go-l. Edge, tit play, sweat, squirt. Friendly easy going over 40 preferred. ☎ 71676

Jock Worship
I'm good looking, SWM, 38/180/6', fit bl, totally discreet, hairy, br;br, clean, HIV-neg, sks primarily straight, clean-cut, young, W/M, HIV-req for massage, showoff, oral anything safe, regularly in SF. S 71677

Bi WM
Looking for a few younger W/M masculine men as close friends to give oral sex to after an evening together. I like the beach, movies, and dining out. To mention a few, always open to suggestions. Monterey area. ☎ 71673

Leather Top & Slave ISO Master Mentor
Mentor for 3-ways. Top 46, 180# 9" fat cut. Pierced slave 43, 160# 8" sinew. SM/BB/CBT/whip/W/S/T/ oral/anal. Master mentor 35-50 & equipped dungeon or private outdoor space. ☎ 71068

They Say Opposites Attract?
Gental, loyal traditional romantic GWM professional mid 50's, stocky, smoker, non-gym top fr/a HIV-, cut hard looking for submissive, loyal GWM cut bottom for regular servicing in oral/Greek. ☎ 71095

Eager Virgin Bottom In Need
Of gentle patient experienced a/w top w/small to large endowment to accept my oral desires on you then be reduced into giving up my bottom to gentle then hard pounding. ☎ 71670

Young European Boy For Training
I am in search for a sexy dominant boy in his 20's or 30's for any sort of training. I am young, sexy, cute and very healthy living. ☎ 71098

(Try This!!) Hot Blunt Bottom
5'10", 160lbs. 39yo athletic, vgl, tatoos, good attitude into in-line skating, restaurants, foreign cinema, laughing. Ub under 45 in-shape, vgl, any race w/good attitude. ☎ 71049

Weightlifting Nude
Have bench, barbells, dumbbells, Strip down, workout. Am 48, 5'9", 190#. You can participate or just watch me workout. ☎ 71050

Feed Me Your Big Blk Cock!
34yr, old GHM 6'2", 250lbs. HIV-. Seeks well endowed Blk men to service. 8"+ only. 25-50yr old, HIV-. I need it on a regular basis. Straight men. ☎ 71051

White Top With 9" Cock Wants Hot
White or Latino ass to fuck. You're under 40 and submissive. Me: 57yrs old 9" cock 6'0", 165lbs, drk brn hair, blue eyes, tan, hairy chest & stomach. ☎ 71094

Recycle Your Piss!
Old age sucks, licks, rims, obeys. You're built, masculine, dominant. I'm over 75, asking for verbal abuse and sexual degradation. What 100% top would enjoy my growling submission? East Bay. ☎ 71053

"Inexperienced"
Young 18-21 goodlooking and honest who like some sexual loving, with no strings attached. Just sex safe. No fats or fems. ☎ 71673

A1 Oral Service Delivered
To trim, mature guys who need head with no reciprocation. SF GWM, handsome, friendly, trim, 6'1", 175#. HIV. ☎ 71069

Spanish Men Wanted
By muscular top 5'11", 165, rd-bl, blu, mustache, 52, HIV+, N/S, N/D. Enjoy kiss, cuddling, vanilla to spice-movies, travel, dining in/out. ☎ 71070

Sex Pigs In Portland
Well hung uncut BM ISO talented mature bottoms for deep plowings and/or oral experts for hot suck sessions at your place. Aroma, videos, dentures, are pluses. No conservatives. ☎ 71098

The Sexiest Guy In Town
Even the sexiest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Be safe! ☎ SAFE

"Nasty Muscular, Masculine Men!"
Let's hook and have a pleasurable good time. Leave name best time to call, phone number. Only serious apply. No B.S. ☎ 71058

GAM ISO GWM For Safe Clean Fun
I am in search for a sexy dominant boy in his 20's or 30's for any sort of training. I am young, sexy, cute and very healthy living. ☎ 71066

Horny Hobo
Homeless guy, UN Plaza, Market, looking for fun, safe togetherness. Smooth butt, hairy chest, light skin, hazel eyes, big Welsh. ☎ 71088

GWM Seeking Fun Encounters
WM, 46, 145lbs seeking trim Asian or Latin under 50 for passionate and fun encounters. Do you love to kiss, cuddle & get wild? Your place or mine in SF. ☎ 71089

Just Shut Up And Ride
WM 36 5'10", 200lbs blond/blue clean cut, muscle guy wants good looking masculine men to screw. Call anytime. ☎ 71090

Hot Oral Bottom!
ISO hung oral top, 8 1/2 or bigger. Well built for hot times. Me: 5'11", 170#, blue eyes, lite hair, tan, husky football player build. A definite plus. ☎ 71092

Verbal Guys
Strip me naked, get me on my knees, sit on my face, and tell me what to do. Healthy, negative-straight looking, trim-bodies WM 42. ☎ 71093

Oversized Pnp Bottom
GWM 5'8" 140# HIV+, 8"+cut, excellent cock sucker with tight ass. Looking for versatile or top man for hot pnp action! ☎ 71052

Deep Throat CockSucker

Neds hard cocks to lick, slurp, suck.

Tilt work & verbal appreciated to make me hungry & to open up my throat. 5'7", 160#, 53y/o, hairy, musc., buccet, go-l. ☎ 71096

Sonoma Fist Slave
ISO exp hb top HIV- 35-45, fit, for ovnites scenes. Slave: 6'1", 200 ft, 5'7" fit top, x-military odd type, Fox. ☎ 71097

Topps Only- Bored With Same Old game? Try a structured encounter w/another top. Ans. ad for details. Ub: slim build, 30's-40's, experimental. ☎ 71098

The Sexiest Guy In Town
Even the sexiest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Be safe! ☎ SAFE

LESBIAN

Women In Public Safety Field
Caring sincere So. Ca. GWF, 42, ISO above for friends, pen-mail pals. I'm a civilian who respects a woman who wears a badge. Please take a chance! ☎ 71071

Co-Dependent Lesbian Space
Alien seeks same. Looking to meet women, eat cheesecake and find love on planet Earth. If you're a space alien too, call! ☎ 71072

FETISHES

Poindexters?
WM, beard, musclebut seeks geeky, 40+ scientist type to slowly expose, examine, sniff, tongue, probe my blushing butt cheeks. Nasal, nerdy verbal a plus. ☎ 71078

The Thicker, The Better...
Endowed, sincere and honest Blk daddy is totally turned on by submissive men with thick mustaches (but no other facial hair). What would please you? ☎ 71679

Sex Wrestling
Want to work out some aggression? Let's fight, then play. Give stats when responding, 6ft 200lbs. ☎ 71680

Will Be 2nd Slave

Will drink all liquids, serve you, clean up, then sit in corner or leave. I'm 59, slim, leather, + healthy. ☎ 71056

Want Clean Ass-Holes To Eat
Ub slim WM, LM, AM who wants his hole sucked and played with. Age unimportant but must be trim and firm. I'm older W/M, 6'2", 186lbs. Be clean. My home. ☎ 71681

Corporate Discipline...
Mature gentleman gives and takes with sophisticated naked man; married, weekdays ok. Marks. ☎ 71682

Seeking Serious Nipple Workout
Buddy, GWM 46yr old, 200# stocky, "nip-pig" bottom bear huge erect nips! Br/brown, salt/pepper goattee, tattoo piercing, smoker. ISO male dominant "nip-pig" workout buddy for serious nip workout sessions w/growth in mind. Smokers A+. Please call. ☎ 71054

Young Slave For Training

Very cute and submissive European boy is looking for a dominant and cute master in his 20's or 30's for any training you choose. Total obedience guaranteed. ☎ 71055

Feet Together! Foot Play From Sensuous to playful. Rubbing, touching, roleplaying, toe wrestling with hairy GWM, 39y.o. ☎ 71074

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 71100

Let's Get Kinky
S/W/M 36yo into B/D, C/B harness, like spankings, dominated, ass ate then fucked, singles and couples. ☎ 71057

Pale Alto GAM 45, 5'11", 185
Blk short hair- blu eyed smooth skin likes receiving tickles down my throat, in return I'll give you a blowjob at your place. ☎ 71073

Older Asian Men
I'm interested in meeting older Asian men 60+ who enjoy receiving slow, sensual- oral pleasure all over. I'm a 45yo LM 6', 165lbs. Not into gay scene. ☎ 71101

"Wanna Wrestle?"
Attractive, slenderly muscled 43y.o. GWM with erotic wrestling fantasies wants to make them real by playing with hot, well-built guys into affectionate, sensual aggression. S 71102

Raunchy Leather Dad
GWM 45, 5'9", 180 shaved head Ikg for nasty boy into leather, raunch, cigar fetish a plus. Boot service also. Dad is drug free, HIV-neg. ☎ 71103

Latex Love
Play safe! Wear a condom! ☎ SAFE

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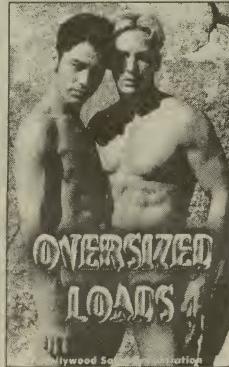
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Teenage angst

'Finding H.F.' tackles adolescence

by Deborah Peifer

It takes a certain naïveté or perhaps unbridled courage for a writer to tackle the seething world of adolescence. Add coming out to the cauldron, and that writer had better be remarkably skilled as well. Fortunately, in the case of *Finding H.F.* (Alyson, \$12.95), the author is Julia Watts, an exceptional talent whose previous novels (including *Mixed Blessings* and *Wedding Bell Blues*) have provided hours of readerly delight. With Watts as the author, I approached *Finding H.F.* with anticipation rather than dread, and was pleased beyond all expectation. *Finding H.F.* is a wonderful novel, one that will break your heart and heal it all at the same time.

H.F. is a 16-year-old with more burdens than many. Raised by her grandmother after her mother disappeared a year after H.F. was born, saddled with the name Heavenly Faith by her very religious grandmother, as well as the appellation "bastard" by her less polite schoolmates, H.F. is a young woman with exactly one friend and a secret she can't bear to share with anyone but him. Fortunately, her friend Bo shares the secret, a fact which makes him the target of every homophobe in their small Southern town.

A new girl at school, Wendy, brings the possibility of a life other than the one they seem destined for in their tradition-bound town. After all, Wendy lives in a brick home, "the big sign that a person's making good in the



Book Report

world." When H.F. discovers that her grandmother has been concealing her mother's whereabouts, she and Bo go off on a journey to find her, a journey of self-discovery that rivals Huck and Jim on the raft for its complexity and depth of feeling.

Watts captures the horrors of high school with delicacy, wit, and considerable dexterity, but never falls into easy sentimentalism. Consider H.F.'s description of a hidden place near a waterfall where the three friends hang out to escape their fellow

students: "Here by the waterfall, Wendy and Bo and me make up our own world. I know nature can be just as nasty as high school, what with big animals eating little animals, and strong critters beating up on weak critters. But here at Deer Creek, you'd never think nature was anything but peaceful — a place where everybody, no matter how small or weak or different, can be safe from harm."

Watts creates vivid characters who spring to life on the page. She manages to avoid stereotypes — even the religious grandmother, a character easy to pigeonhole, is a woman of great individuality. H.F. is the heart of the novel, and her struggles matter as much to us as they do to her. *Finding H.F.* is a wonderful novel for teenagers to read, but it also a must-read for anyone who knows or has ever been a teenager.

Restaurant rescue

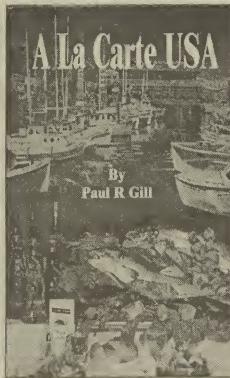
I know enough about cooking to recognize that Florentine means spinach, but beyond that, any menu that contains French

phrases tends to leave me serious in the lurch. Enter, thank goodness, *A La Carte USA* (eBookstand Books, \$15.95 paperback, \$8.99 to download from eBookstand.com), a very handy glossary compiled by Paul R. Gill of phrases, with pronunciations, that will enable the linguistically challenged to order fromage and know that it's formaggio. At 124 pages, the book is small enough to carry around with you, but nevertheless, it's jam-packed with plenty of useful information. I was curious to know a little more about my new savior, so an e-interview seemed just the thing.

Deborah Peifer: Why did you decide to write the book?

Paul Gill: I decided to write the book because no one had done anything comprehensive at the time, the late '80s. *Food Lovers Companion*, the best glossary in the field, came later.

I wanted to help travelers,



restaurant employees, and the upscale dining public. I noticed that even well-educated and obviously well-heeled people had no idea what they were eating and could not comfortably pronounce complicated menus.

What's your food connection?

Twenty-six years as a restaurant pro in San Francisco — manager, waiter, caterer, and so on. I also did a lot of culinary reading and taught myself a great deal simply by eating out in better

restaurants and paying attention to what went on around me. Language study — French, Spanish, and Italian — helped immensely.

I made culinary tours of Paris, London, and Northern Italy. I am now teaching food-server courses through the Learning Annex. I emphasize service, glassware, table set-up, terminology, wine types, wine geography, correlations between wine names and the grapes used therein, uniforms and tools, basic cocktails, ethics, etc. The response has been favorable. I want to keep learning and am attending some wine appreciation courses.

Event-ually

Armistead Maupin reads from *The Night Listener* on October 25, 7 p.m., at The Booksmith, 1644 Haight Street. ▼

If you have information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com.

Notes from an exile

by Jim Nawrocki

Mona and Other Tales by Reinaldo Arenas; translated by Dolores M. Koch; Vintage, \$12

Most readers are familiar with the work of exiled Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas through his memoir, *Before Night Falls*, which was made into a popular independent film of the same title last year. Arenas was a gifted writer who was not afraid to use his pen to depict the realities of life in Castro's Cuba. His writings and his homosexuality, which were both deemed "counterrevolutionary" by the Cuban government, made him a target for political persecution and imprisonment. He endured much hardship at the hands of the Cuban authorities before he escaped to the United States at the end of the '70s. He committed suicide in 1990, while suffering from AIDS.

The stories collected in *Mona and Other Tales* span a period of over 20 years. Some were written

from within Cuban prisons, others from Miami and then New York, the city that eventually became his home. Arenas' hatred of Castro and his passion for freedom permeate all of his writing. In "End of a Story," one of the pieces in this new collection, Arenas rails against Cuba and vows that he will never return: "Never! Did you hear me? Not even if, after the regime falls, they beg me to come back to have my profile stamped on a medal or whatever; not even if my presence is crucial for the whole island not to sink; not even if the red carpet is rolled out from the airplane exit to the execution wall where I am to parade mortally on my way to discharge the grace shot in the dictator's head. Never!"

Arenas' voice is lyrical and passionate. He is capable of confronting the realities of the Cuban revolution and its consequences. Much great literature has been born of political protest, and Arenas' work falls squarely within this camp. But he is also capable of creating seemingly ordinary worlds that are interwoven with the threads of the fantastic. In this, he also fits within the tradition of Magic Realism, a term used to characterize the work of such Latin American writers as Jorge Luis Borges and Gabriel García Marquez.

In the world of Magic Realism, everyday reality is visited, often seamlessly, by the strange and the unexpected. Perhaps the best example of this technique in Arenas' writing is this collection's title story, "Mona." In it, young, extraordinarily handsome young man meets a beautiful, mysterious and seemingly insatiable woman.

Although the young man has many female lovers and can have almost any woman he wants, Elisa's strange appetites and equally strange behavior become the driving force of his obsession with her. He ultimately gets an answer to all of his questions about who Elisa is and where she comes from, and the answer is nearly too incredible. The tale becomes even stranger when he meets Elisa's "creator" and discovers the motivation behind her sexual voracity.

"Mona" is perhaps the most intricately structured tale in the collection. Arenas takes great pains to establish a "realistic" base for the story, but he does so playfully. It's presented as a manuscript found after a detained mental patient's suicide, and is offered complete with an introduction and footnotes. Ultimately, it's a highly effective and memorable meditation on gender, identity, and the role of the artist and writer.

New Morph City

To add an air of the fantastic to many of his stories, Arenas sets them in the future. The short fragment "Blacks," for example, is set at a future time "after the Fifth Superthermal War" and begins with the line, "Blacks were not black anymore." These are stories in which Arenas creates of world of wonderful and terrible possibilities, a world where New York City can morph into Havana; where people in paintings can come to life; where the landscape itself is alive with magic.

Some stories in this collection are not about characters and events as much as they are extended monologues, voices of bitterness and reckoning, defiance and dissent. In "Traitor," an old woman speaks into the tape recorder brought by a young writer who has come to interview her about the revolution. "The Parade Ends" is a kind of stream-of-consciousness extended riff, full of vivid images. The translator has also included "The Joyful Sixties" in Latin American Literature," an essay delivered by Arenas at the Letras de Oro award ceremony in 1988.

Because it spans over two decades of his life, *Mona and Other Tales* is a good representation of Arenas' tragically short but productive writing career. Like all literature that comes from political persecution and personal tragedy, it can't be read without a sense of poignancy and nobility. But Arenas was a truly talented writer — the facts of his biography are the prism through which his work must be viewed, but they are not the sole reason for its beauty. ▼

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PERSONALS

Out There

◀ page 26

call themselves the Gang of Five — to keep people on their toes. Skeekie's a greaser, Addie is a brain, Bobby is fat. Guess what Joe is. He's called Twinkletoes, and this is the nicest name that he's called.

The misfits are tired of getting picked on, so they organize a third party to challenge the Republicans and Democrats in the school elections! This is from Addie's campaign speech:

"Another thing I think about names is that they do hurt. They hurt because we believe them. We think they are telling us something true about ourselves, something other people can see even if we don't."

"Lardo fluff fagoat fairy dweeb mutant freak ree-tard loser greaser know-it-all beanpole geek dork..."

"Is that me? we think. Is that who I am?"

Out There leaves our readers to their own reflections. ▼

Backstage

◀ page 27

Inferno, staged in 1999 and 2000, respectively, will be joined by samplings from the upcoming musical *Cupidity* to tell the story of a former Tuck 'n' Roll Player's journey to death row.

Arturo Galster, Leigh Crow, Laura Le Bleu, Kennedy, and Trauma Flintstone comprise the cast of *Exospective*, written and directed by Laurie Bushman. For more info call 431-8422.

Unhinged cabaret

The New York Times described a performance by Kiki and Herb as "the most hilariously disturbing show you'll see this season." This lounge-act parody, born in San Francisco in 1993, returns for its first Bay Area appearance in three years on Oct. 25 at the Great American Music Hall.

The creation of Justin Bond and Kenny Mellman, *Kiki & Herb: Stop, Drop & Roll* mixes up torch-song standards with punk rock, underground music, and even some Donna Summer. The songs are interspersed with bits and pieces of Kiki's grisly autobiography.

If you need further endorsements of Kiki and Herb, they performed at Madonna's 40th birthday party and count Isaac Mizrahi and Monica Lewinsky among their fans. More information is available at 885-0750.

More and less

Lily Tomlin will be sticking around longer than expected, but Lypsinka is packing up a week early.

Four weeks have been added to the run of Tomlin's *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* at Theatre on the Square, with the run now continuing to at least Nov. 25. The show set a box-office record at the theater previously held by the star-driven production of Sam Shepard's *The Late Henry Moss*. Call 433-9500 for tickets.

Lypsinka! *The Boxed Set* is now set to close Oct. 28 at the Alcazar Theatre. It's a nifty showcase of Lypsinka's greatest hits and bits packaged with far more polish than her previous appearances at Josie's. Catch it before she's gone. Tickets: 441-4042. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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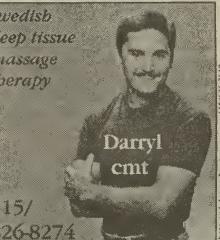
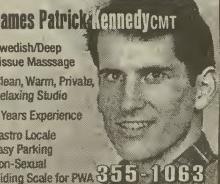
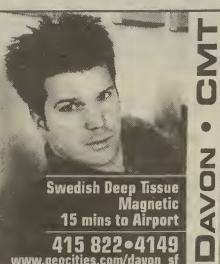
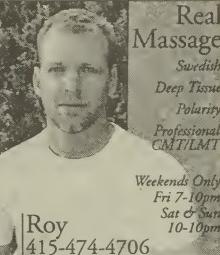


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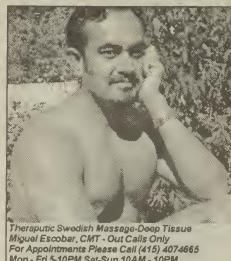
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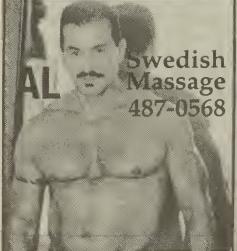
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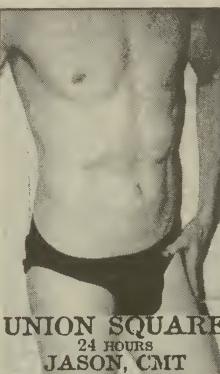
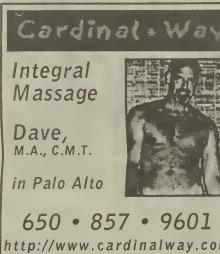
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6'3 Butch Top In/Out STEVE (415) 204-STUD

9"
24 hrs, 24 hrs, 24 hrs
Dark blonde hair
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27" waist • versatile
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Handsome Hairy Hung
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Reliable Professional Trustworthy Open-Minded Discreet Safe
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X-Goodlooking
Smooth muscle build
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Very handsome
24hrs Fri-Sat
Sun only
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\$200⁰⁰

Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs
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Tall, goodlooking &go*teed 24hrs.

Frat Boy Hunk

Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs

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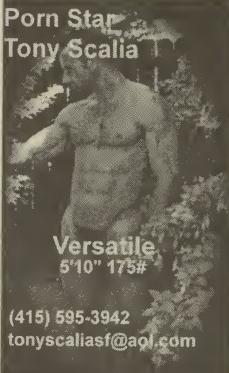
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Bodybuilder,
220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21"A,
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E43

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very verbal*role play*w/s*fat tool
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Whit guy 4 exotic play. Out only

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Thick fat tool, hung 9x6.

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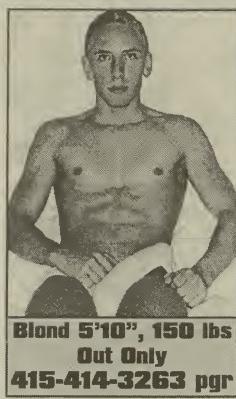
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Pers. Trainer 5'11", 170 \$150 810-2414

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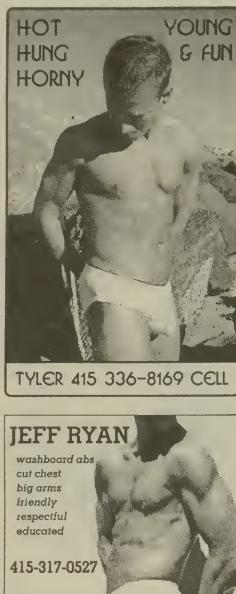
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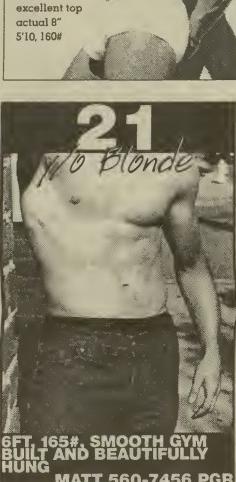
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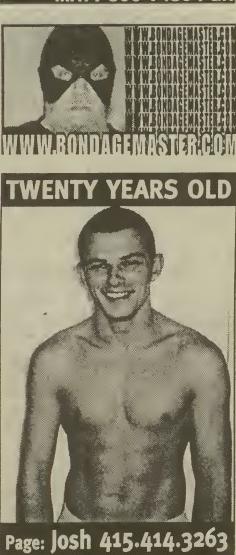
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cut chest
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21
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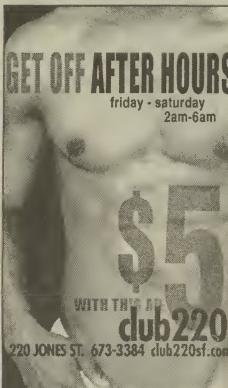
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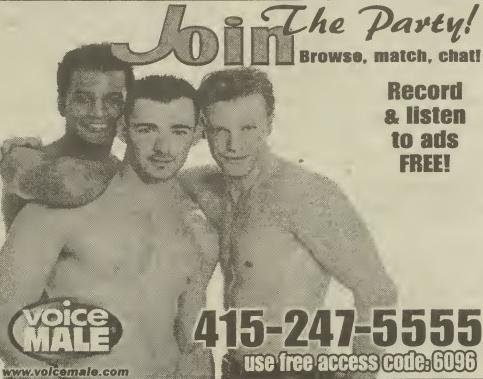
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Hot Ass
porn that will get you off!



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All-male streaming spanking video!
Chat, message board & more!

E43

XXX WEB**FREE TRIAL MEMBERSHIP!****11,000+ MEN****SERVED DAILY****m4m4sex.com****BAY AREA REPORTER****CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM**Indicate
Type Style
Here ▼**DEADLINE**

NOON on MONDAY.
Payment must accompany ad.
No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019:
Display advertising rates available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular	4.50
All subsequent lines	3.00
CAPS	double price
BOLD	double price
X-BOLD	triple price

X-BOLD Stops Here ▼**BOLD** Stops Here ▼**CAPS** Stop Here ▼**Regular** Stops Here ▼**PAYMENT**

- Cash
 - Personal Check
 - Money Order
 - Visa
 - MasterCard
 - American Express
- Minimum \$10 charge.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number
Expiration Date
Signature
Name

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Telephone	
Address		
City	State	Zip
Number of Issues	Classification	Amount Enclosed

**MAIL WITH
PAYMENT TO:**Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
SF, CA 94103**OR FAX TO:**

415.861.8144

OR E-MAIL:

baradv@aol.com

SIDE EFFECTS?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
BEING PART OF A TRIAL THAT
STUDIES THE SIDE EFFECTS
OF HIV MEDICINES?

If your HIV meds are causing side effects, you may be interested in enrolling in our study. To learn more, talk to your healthcare provider or call toll free:

1-800-81-PLATO
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